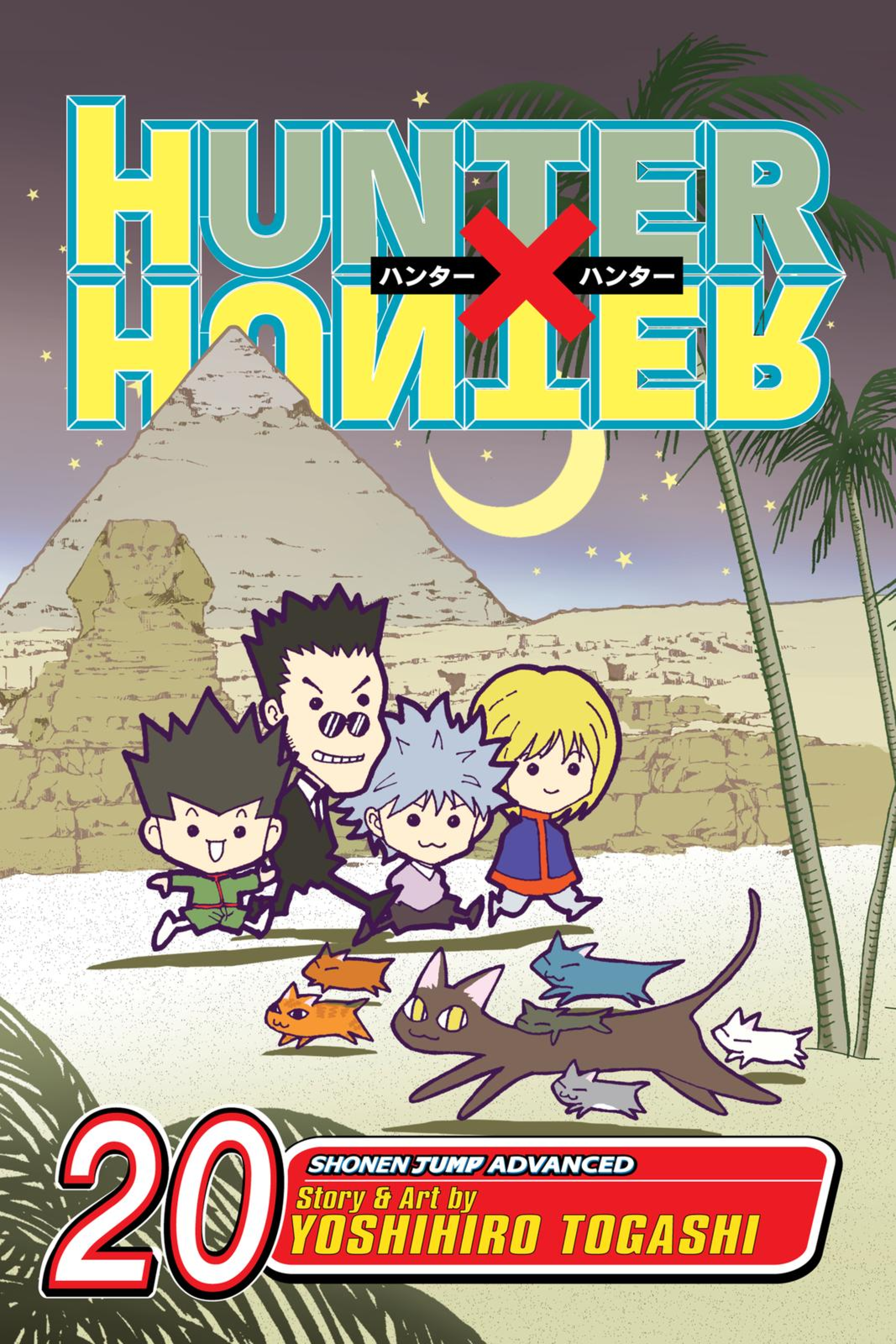
HUNTER × HUNTER

ハンター×ハンター



20

SHONEN JUMP ADVANCED

Story & Art by

YOSHIHIRO TOGASHI

冨樫義博

. . .

Yoshihiro Togashi

Yoshihiro Togashi's manga career began in 1986 at the age of 20, when he won the coveted Osamu Tezuka Award for new manga artists. He debuted in the Japanese **Weekly Shonen Jump** magazine in 1989 with the romantic comedy **Tende Shôwaru Cupid**. From 1990 to 1994 he wrote and drew the hit manga **YuYu Hakusho**, which was followed by the dark comedy science-fiction series **Level E**, and finally this adventure series, **Hunter x Hunter**, available from VIZ Media's SHONEN JUMP Advanced imprint. In 1999 he married the manga artist Naoko Takeuchi.

HUNTER X HUNTER Volume 20
The SHONEN JUMP ADVANCED Manga Edition

STORY AND ART BY
YOSHIHIRO TOGASHI

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VP of Publishing Licensing/Rika Inouye
VP of Sales/Gonzalo Ferreyra
Sr. VP of Marketing/Liza Coppola
Publisher/Hyoe Narita

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Printed in the U.S.A.

Published by VIZ Media, LLC
P.O. Box 77010
San Francisco, CA 94107

SHONEN JUMP ADVANCED Manga Edition
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
First printing, May 2008

VIZ media
www.viz.com

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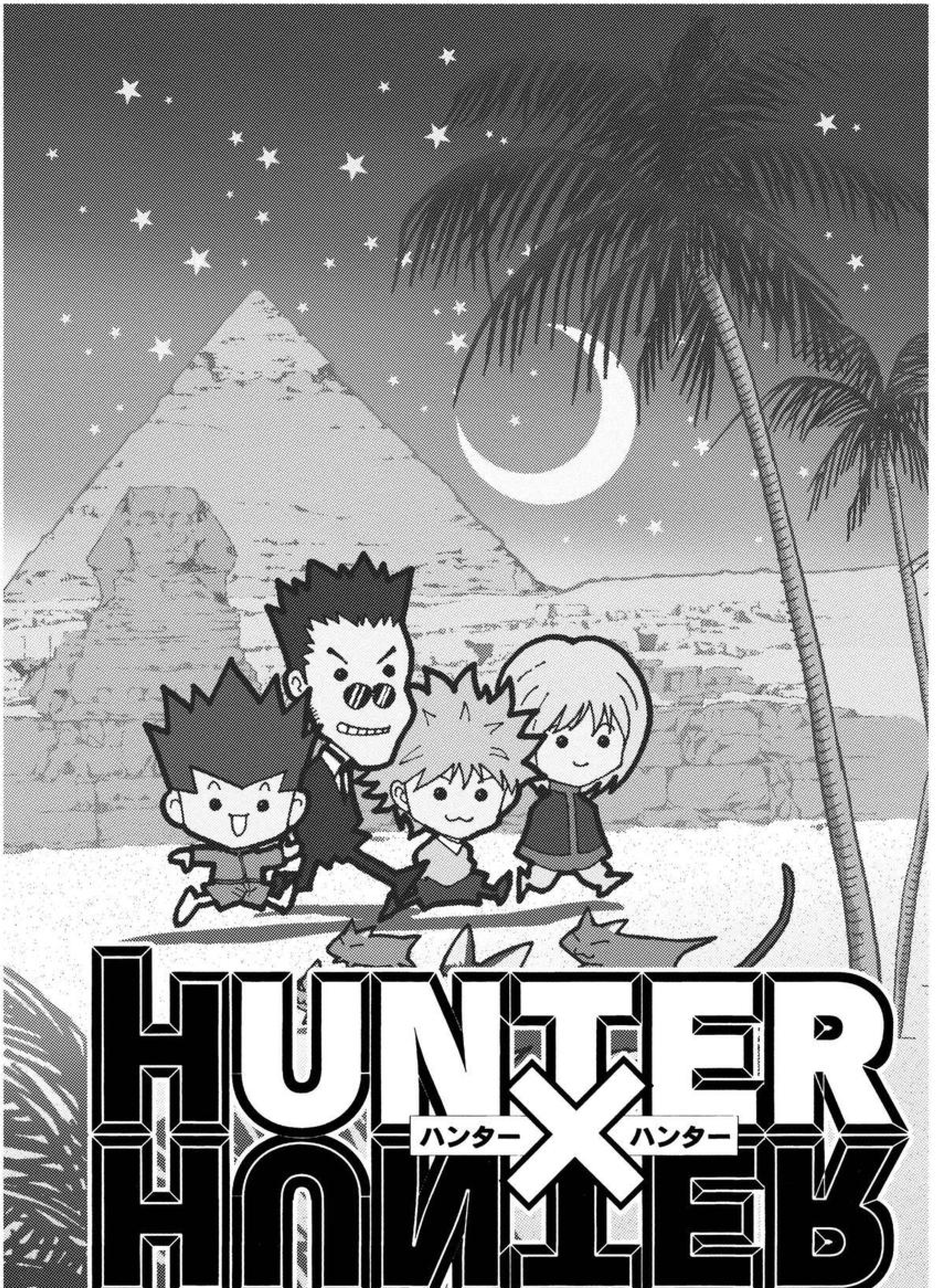
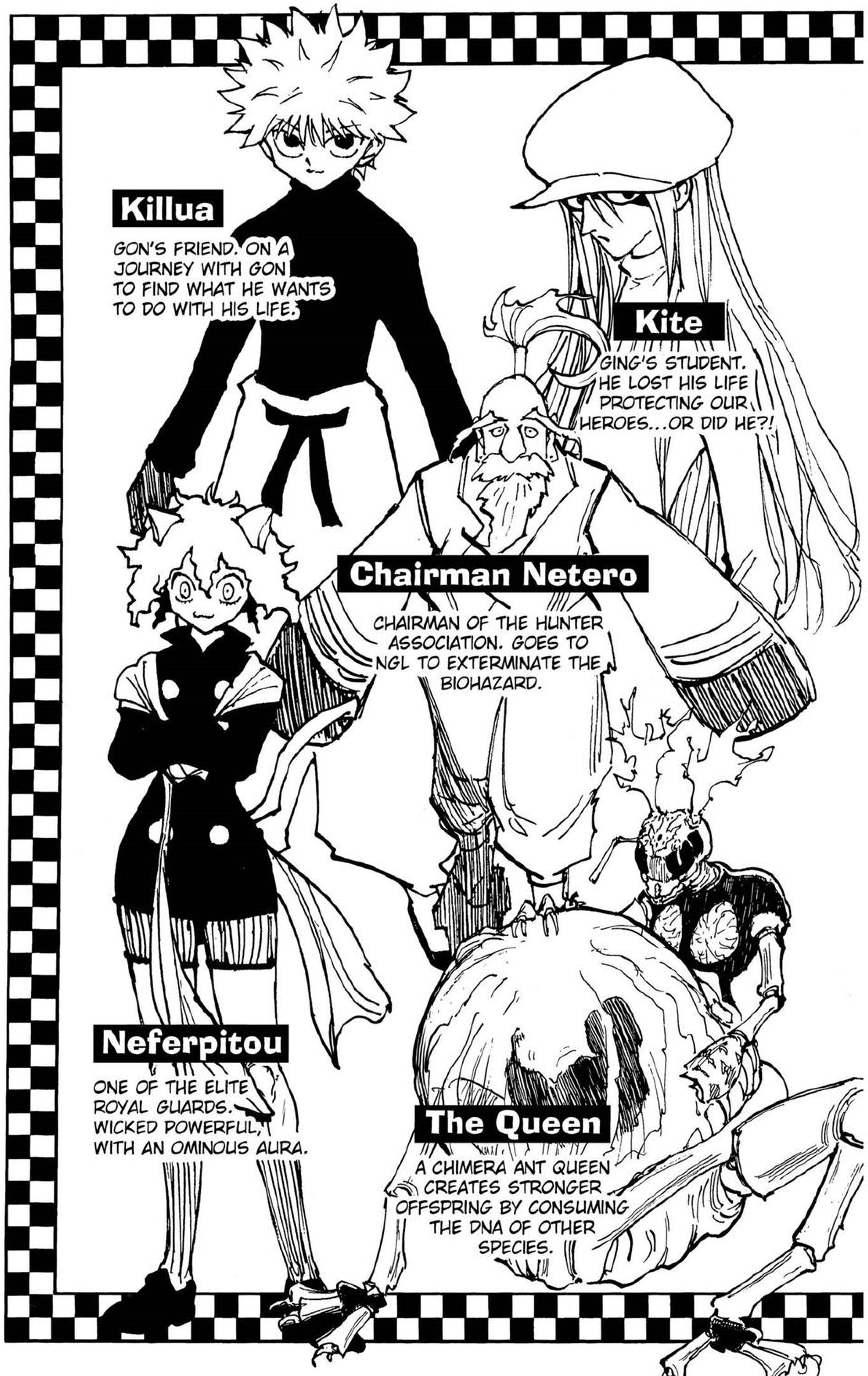


HUNTER × HUNTER

Story & Art by
Yoshihiro Togashi

Volume 20



Killua

GON'S FRIEND. ON A JOURNEY WITH GON TO FIND WHAT HE WANTS TO DO WITH HIS LIFE.

Kite

GING'S STUDENT. HE LOST HIS LIFE PROTECTING OUR HEROES...OR DID HE?!

Chairman Netero

CHAIRMAN OF THE HUNTER ASSOCIATION. GOES TO NGL TO EXTERMINATE THE BIOHAZARD.

Neferpitou

ONE OF THE ELITE ROYAL GUARDS. WICKED POWERFUL, WITH AN OMINOUS AURA.

The Queen

A CHIMERA ANT QUEEN CREATES STRONGER OFFSPRING BY CONSUMING THE DNA OF OTHER SPECIES.

Gon

OUR EAGER HERO. NOW A HUNTER, HE'S ON A SEARCH TO REUNITE WITH HIS FATHER!

The Story Thus Far

GON DREAMS OF BEING A HUNTER LIKE THE FATHER HE BARELY REMEMBERS, THE GREAT GING FREECSS. HE PASSES THE HIGHLY SELECTIVE LICENSING EXAM, BUT FINDING GING WILL BE EVEN HARDER.

ONE OF THE CLUES GING LEFT BEHIND WAS A MEMORY CARD FOR THE GAME "GREED ISLAND." GON AND KILLUA ENJOY PLAYING THE GAME, WHILE STUDYING NEN TO GET STRONGER. ALONG THE WAY, THEY BATTLE AND DEFEAT THE BOMBERS BY PUTTING THEIR SIGNATURE MOVES TO GOOD USE. GON CLEARS THE GAME, BUT THE CLUES TO GING LEAD TO ANOTHER DEAD END... AND A SURPRISE REUNION WITH KITE!

GON AND KILLUA ACCOMPANY KITE AND START ON ANOTHER ADVENTURE. THEY GO TO NGL ("NEO-GREEN LIFE") TO CONFIRM THE EXISTENCE OF CHIMERA ANTS, BUT THEIR PROLIFERATION AND VICIOUS NATURE HAS ADVANCED MORE THAN ANYONE IMAGINED. KILLUA ESCAPES WITH GON, BUT WHAT ABOUT KITE...?!

HUNTER×HUNTER

Volume 20

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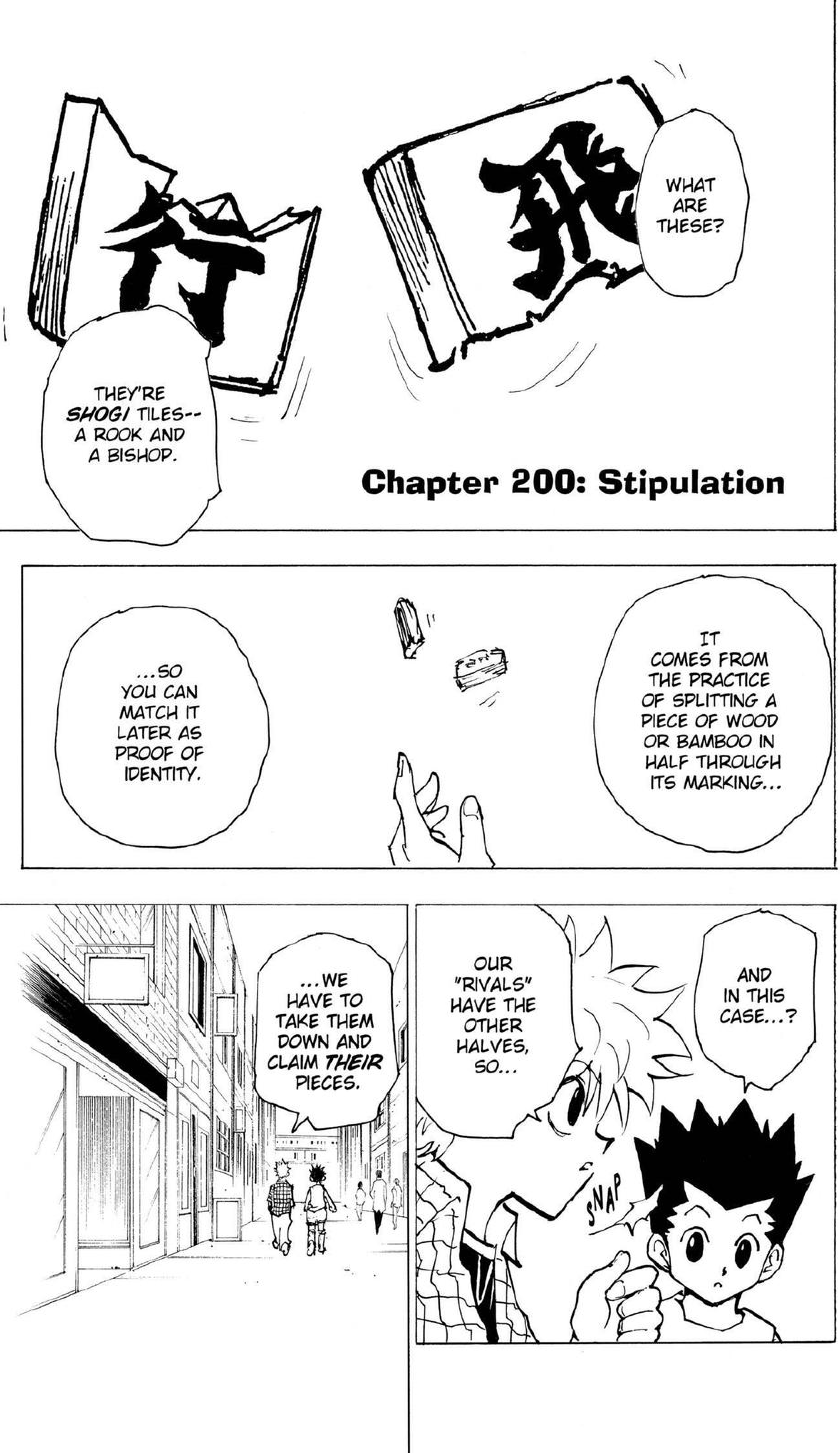
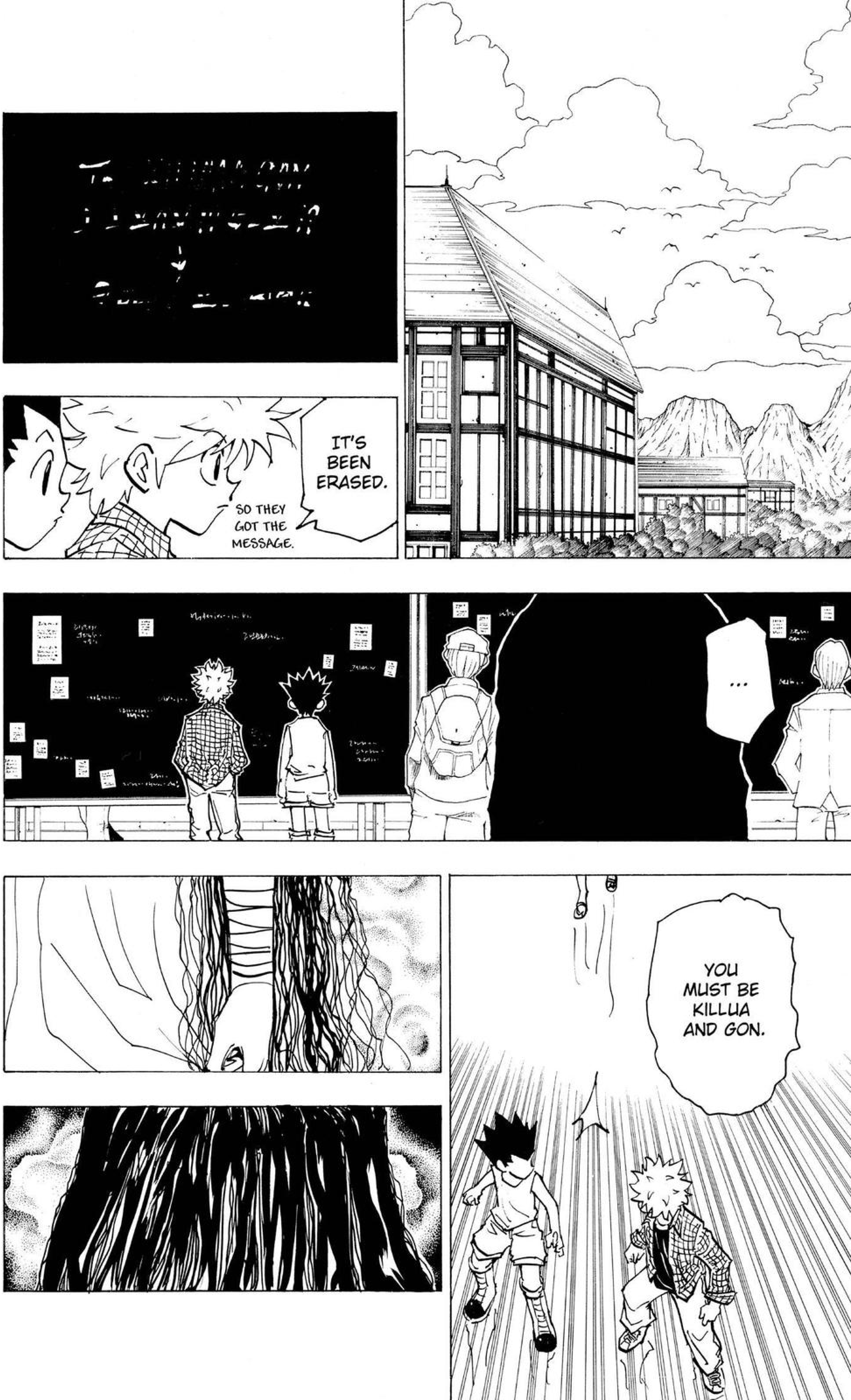
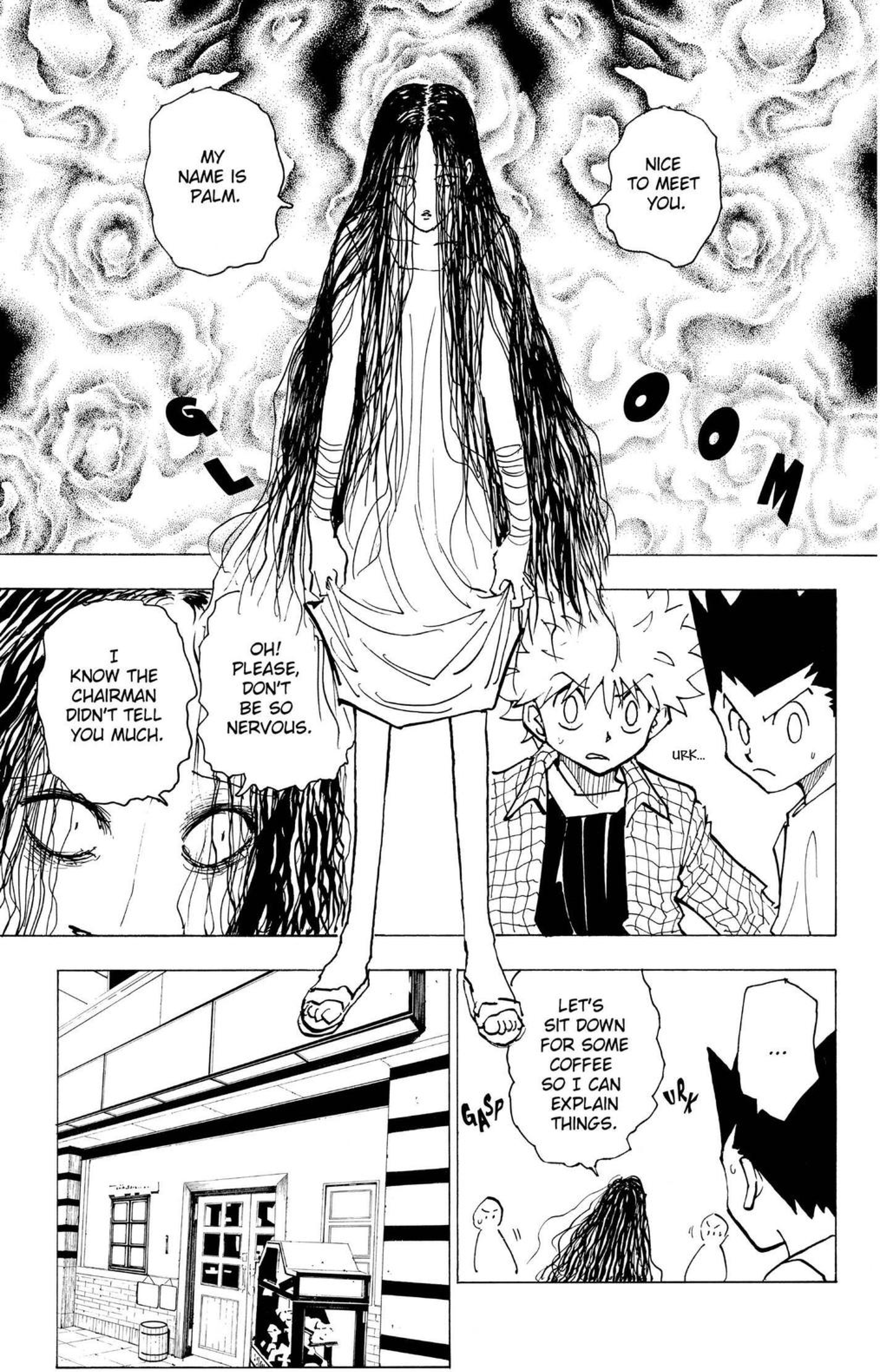
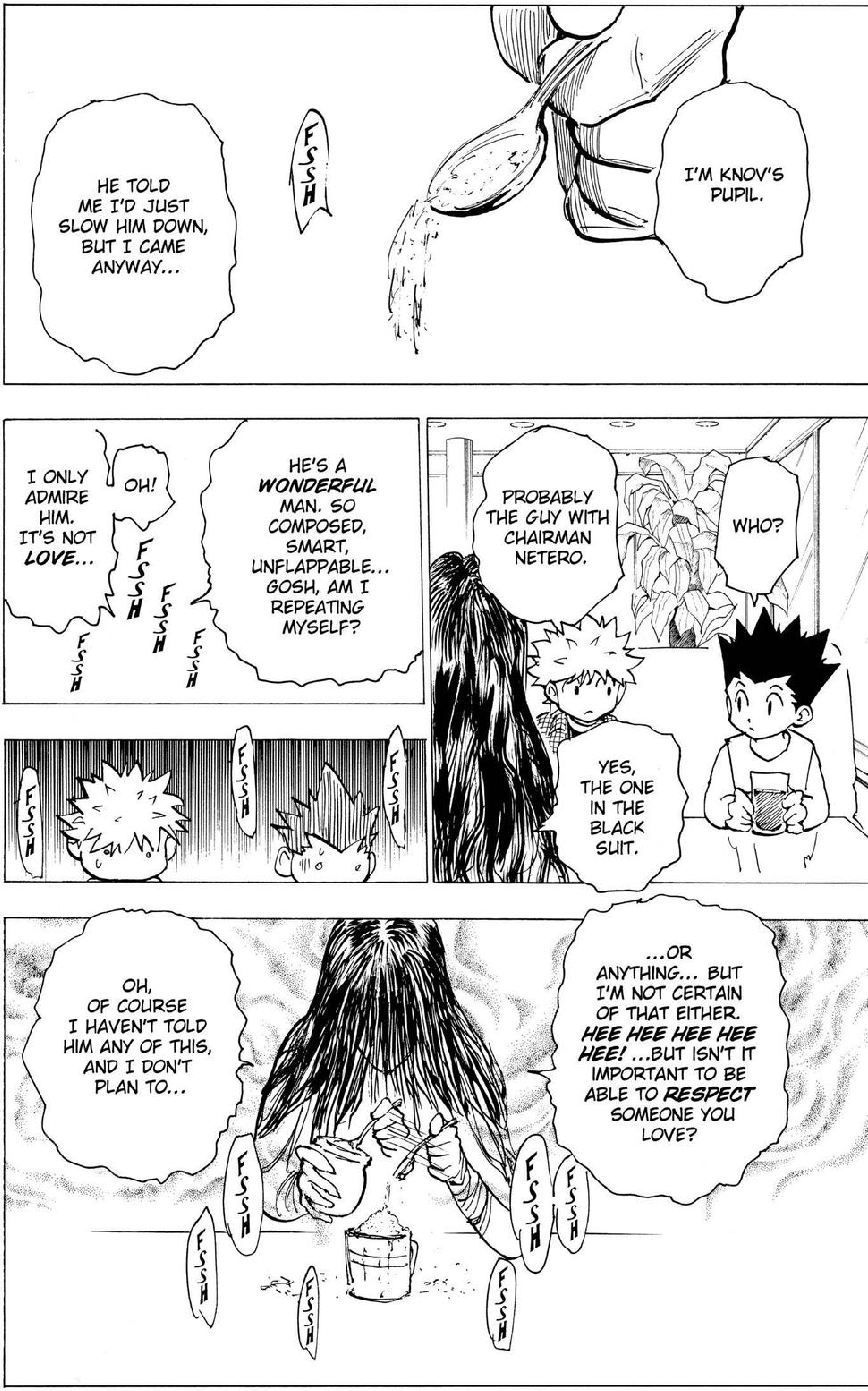
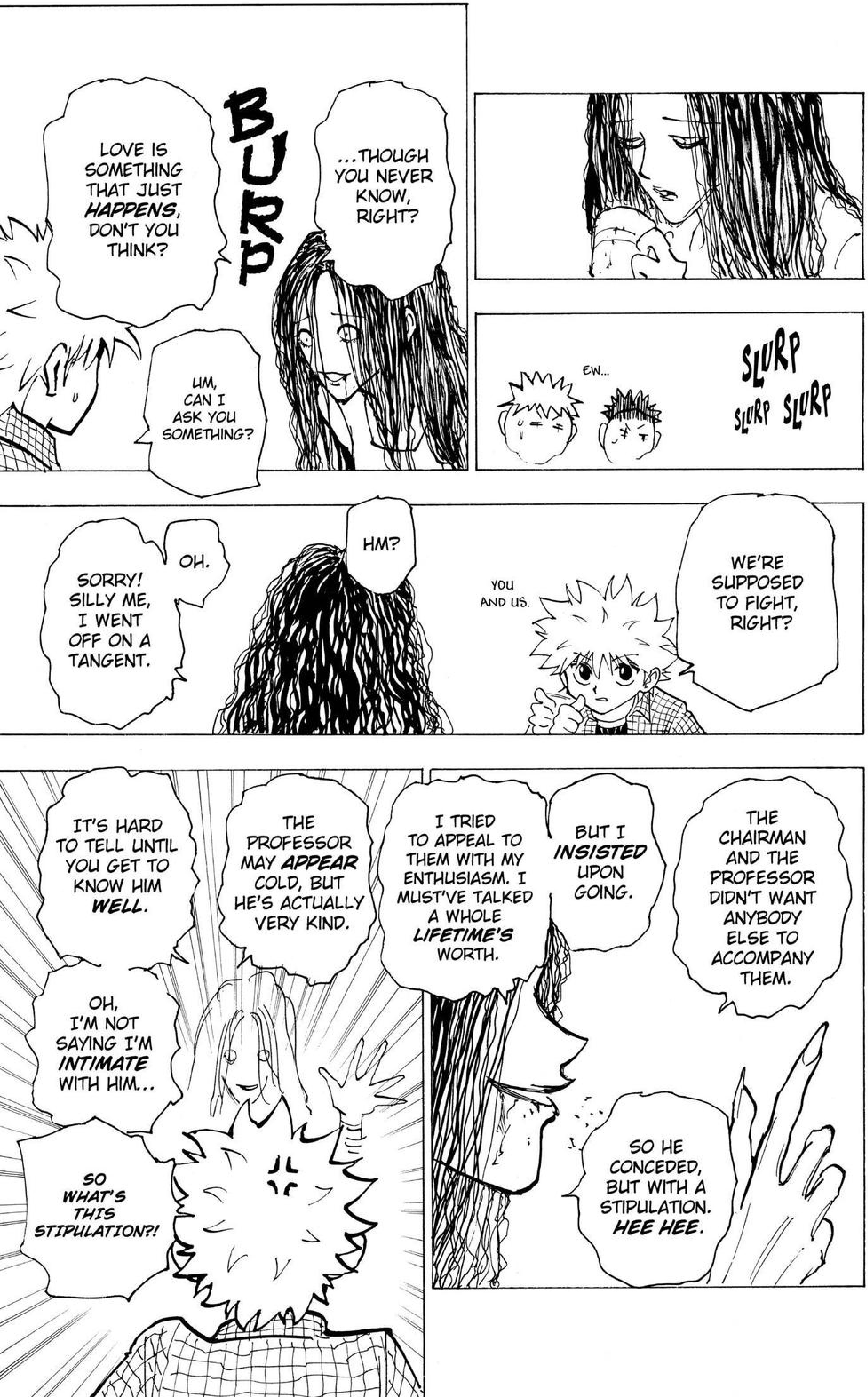

WHAT ARE THESE?
THEY'RE *SHOGI* TILES--A ROOK AND A BISHOP.
IT COMES FROM THE PRACTICE OF SPLITTING A PIECE OF WOOD OR BAMBOO IN HALF THROUGH ITS MARKING...
...SO YOU CAN MATCH IT LATER AS PROOF OF IDENTITY.
AND IN THIS CASE...?
OUR "RIVALS" HAVE THE OTHER HALVES, SO...
SNAP
...WE HAVE TO TAKE THEM DOWN AND CLAIM ***THEIR*** PIECES.

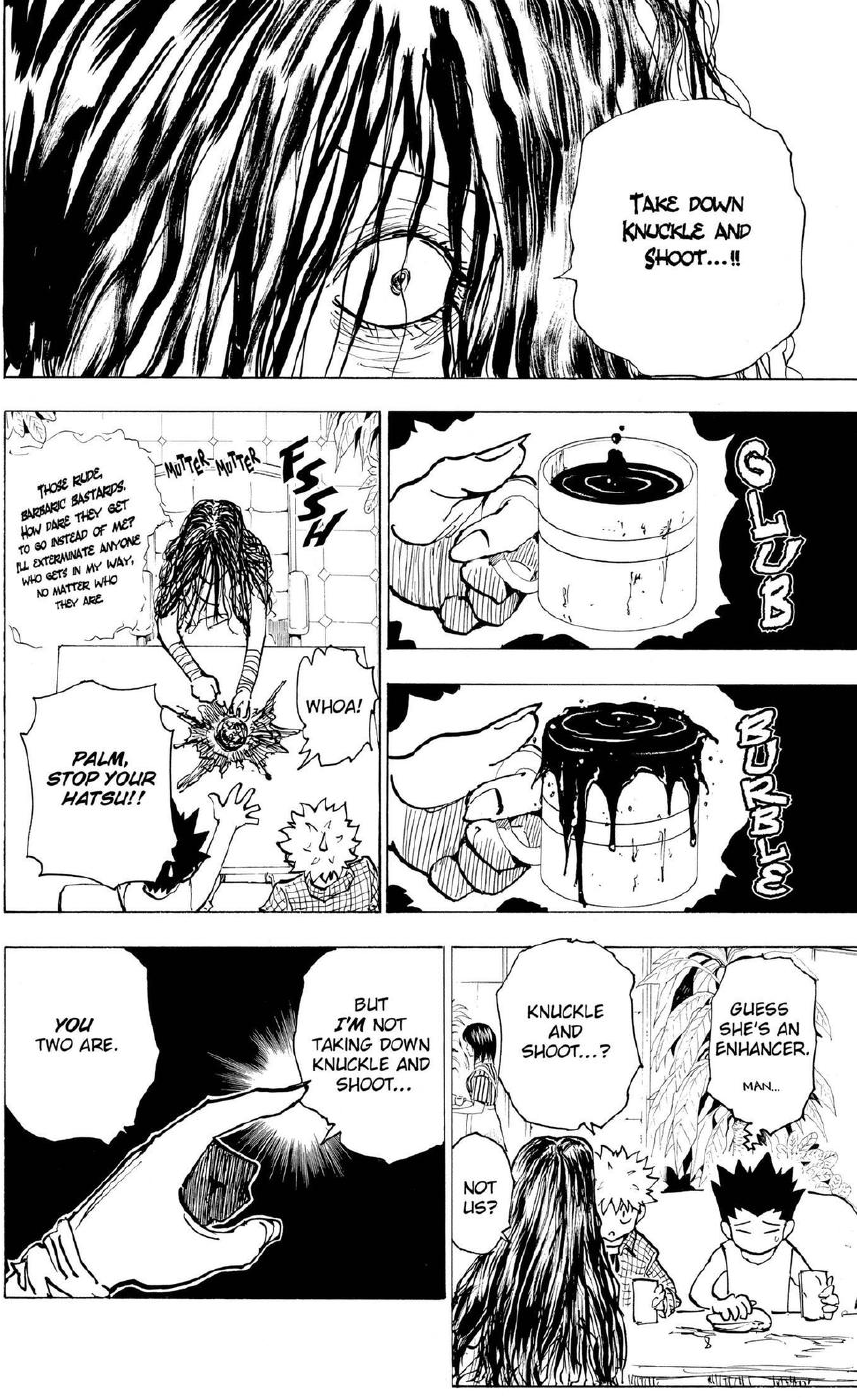
Chapter 200:
Stipulation

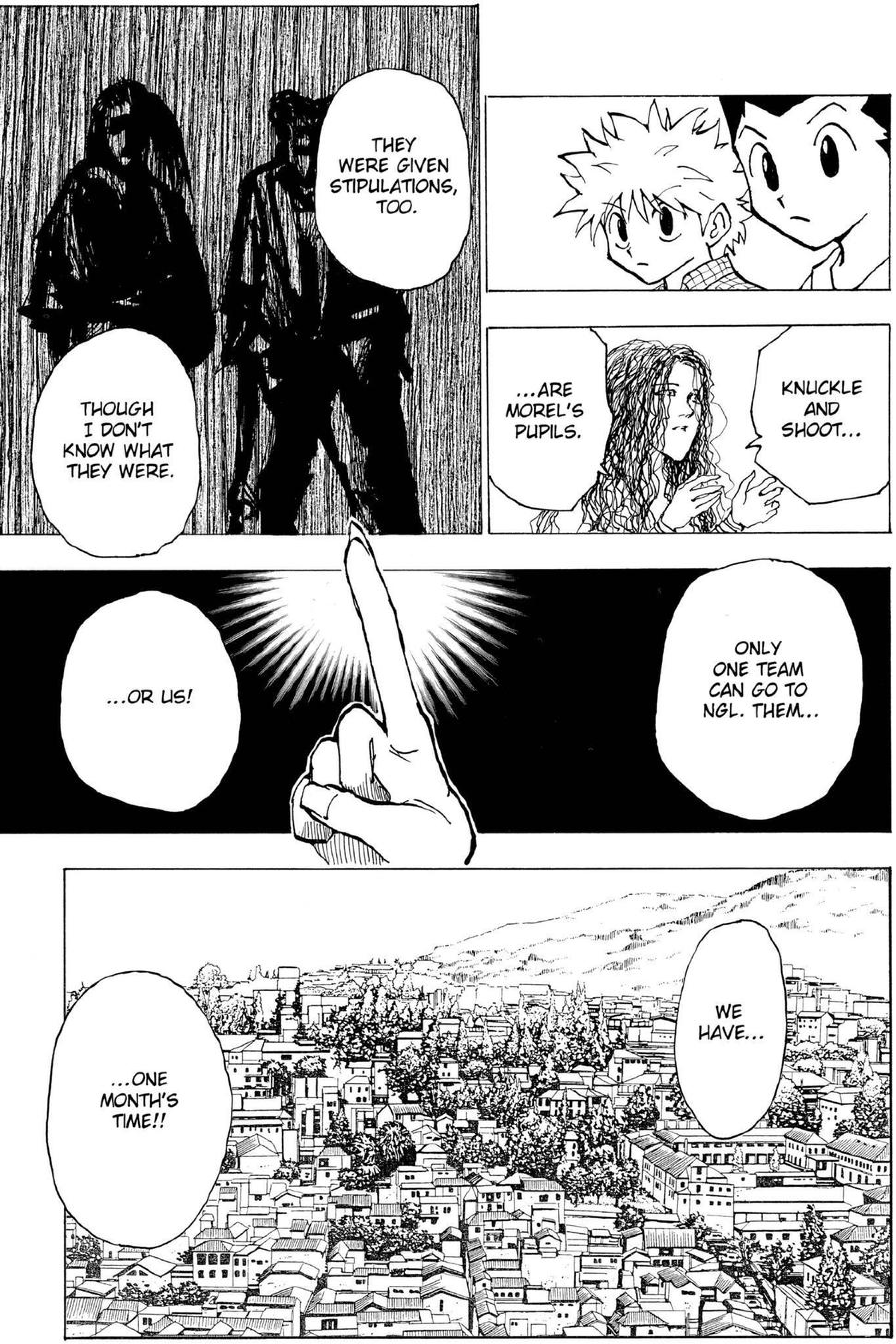

IT'S BEEN ERASED.
SO THEY GOT THE MESSAGE.
...
YOU MUST BE KILLUA AND GON.

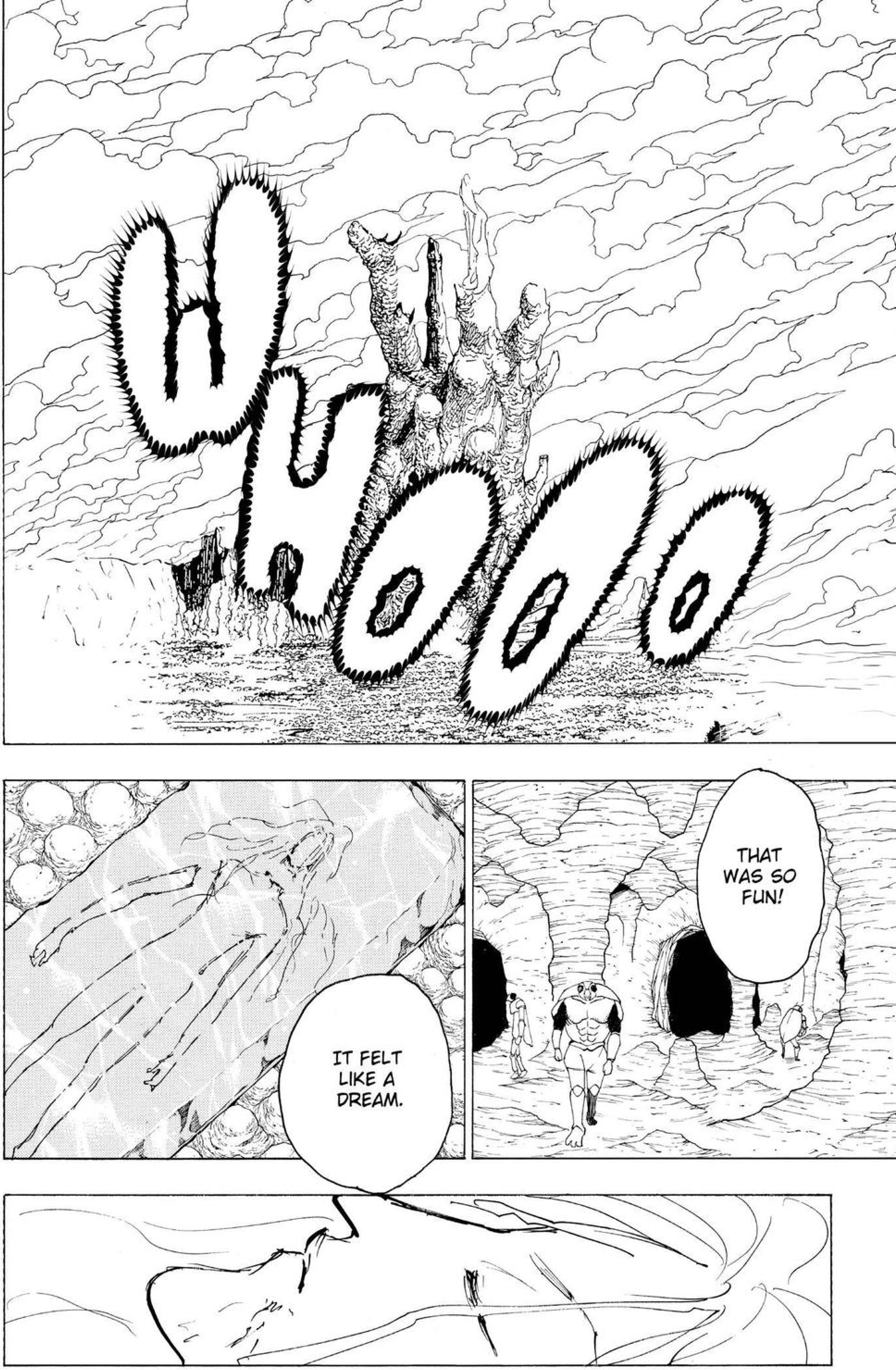

MY NAME IS PALM.
NICE TO MEET YOU.
GLOOOM
I KNOW THE CHAIRMAN DIDN'T TELL YOU MUCH.
OH! PLEASE, DON'T BE SO NERVOUS.
URK...
LET'S SIT DOWN FOR SOME COFFEE SO I CAN EXPLAIN THINGS.
GASP
URK
...

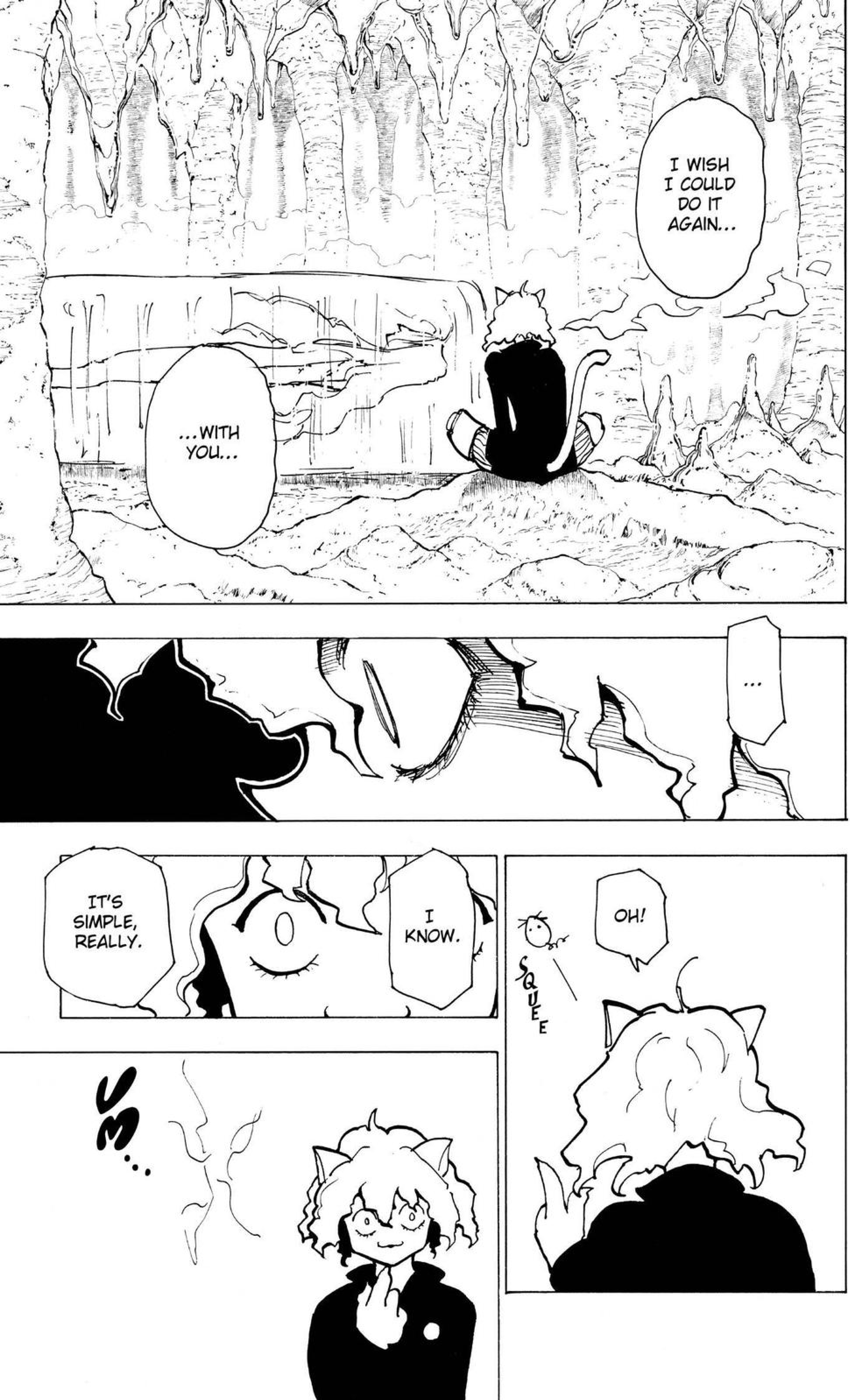

I'M KNOV'S PUPIL.
FSSH
HE TOLD ME I'D JUST SLOW HIM DOWN, BUT I CAME ANYWAY...
WHO?
PROBABLY THE GUY WITH CHAIRMAN NETERO.
YES, THE ONE IN THE BLACK SUIT.
HE'S A ***WONDERFUL*** MAN. SO COMPOSED, SMART, UNFLAPPABLE... GOSH, AM I REPEATING MYSELF?
OH!
I ONLY ADMIRE HIM. IT'S NOT ***LOVE***...
FSSH
FSSH
FSSH
FSSH
FSSH
FSSH
...OR ANYTHING... BUT I'M NOT CERTAIN OF THAT EITHER. ***HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE!*** ...BUT ISN'T IT IMPORTANT TO BE ABLE TO ***RESPECT*** SOMEONE YOU LOVE?
OH, OF COURSE I HAVEN'T TOLD HIM ANY OF THIS, AND I DON'T PLAN TO...
FSSH
FSSH
FSSH
FSSH
FSSH
FSSH

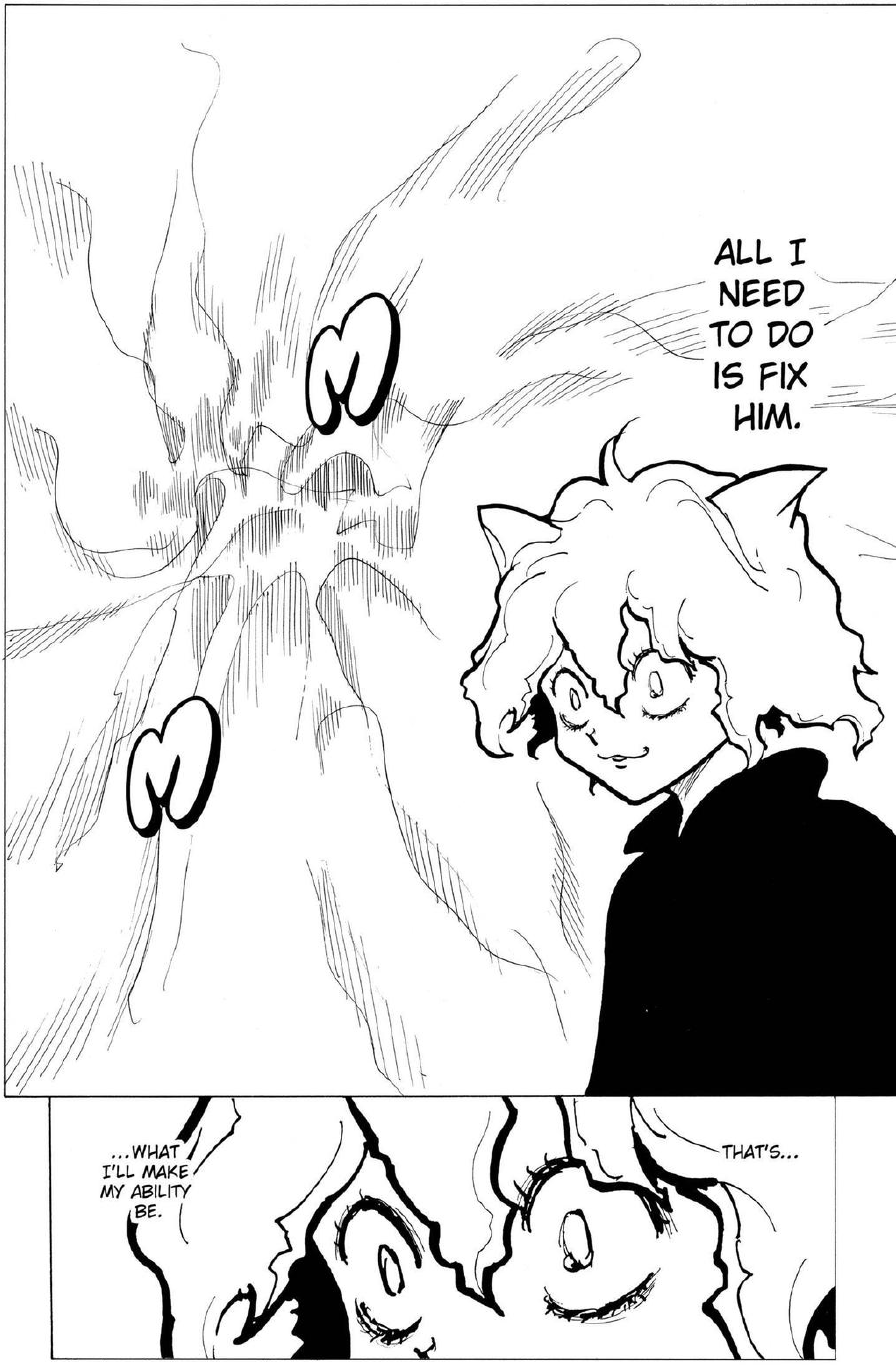

LOVE IS SOMETHING THAT JUST HAPPENS, DON'T YOU THINK?
...THOUGH YOU NEVER KNOW, RIGHT?
BURP
SLURP SLURP SLURP
EW...
UM, CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING?
WE'RE SUPPOSED TO FIGHT, RIGHT?
YOU AND US.
HM?
OH.
SORRY! SILLY ME, I WENT OFF ON A TANGENT.
THE CHAIRMAN AND THE PROFESSOR DIDN'T WANT ANYBODY ELSE TO ACCOMPANY THEM.
BUT I INSISTED UPON GOING.
I TRIED TO APPEAL TO THEM WITH MY ENTHUSIASM. I MUST'VE TALKED A WHOLE LIFETIME'S WORTH.
SO HE CONCEDED, BUT WITH A STIPULATION. HEE HEE.
THE PROFESSOR MAY APPEAR COLD, BUT HE'S ACTUALLY VERY KIND.
IT'S HARD TO TELL UNTIL YOU GET TO KNOW HIM WELL.
OH, I'M NOT SAYING I'M INTIMATE WITH HIM..
SO WHAT'S THIS STIPULATION?!

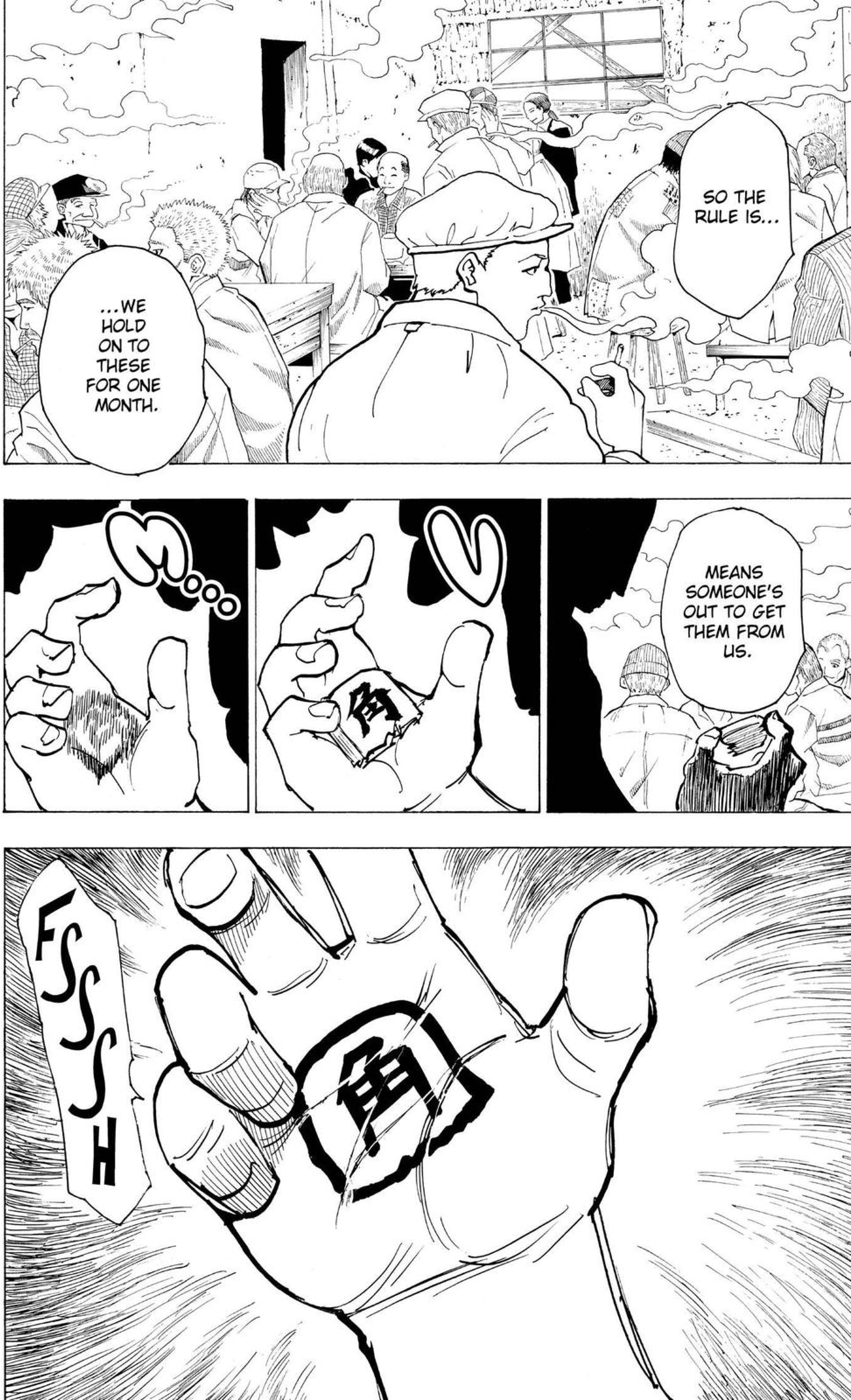

TAKE DOWN KNUCKLE AND SHOOT...!!
GLUB
BUBBLE
THOSE RUDE, BARBARIC BASTARDS. HOW DARE THEY GET TO GO INSTEAD OF ME? I'LL EXTERMINATE ANYONE WHO GETS IN MY WAY, NO MATTER WHO THEY ARE.
MUTTER MUTTER
FSSH
WHOA!
PALM, STOP YOUR HATSU!!
GUESS SHE'S AN ENHANCER.
MAN...
KNUCKLE AND SHOOT...?
NOT US?
BUT I'M NOT TAKING DOWN KNUCKLE AND SHOOT...
YOU TWO ARE.

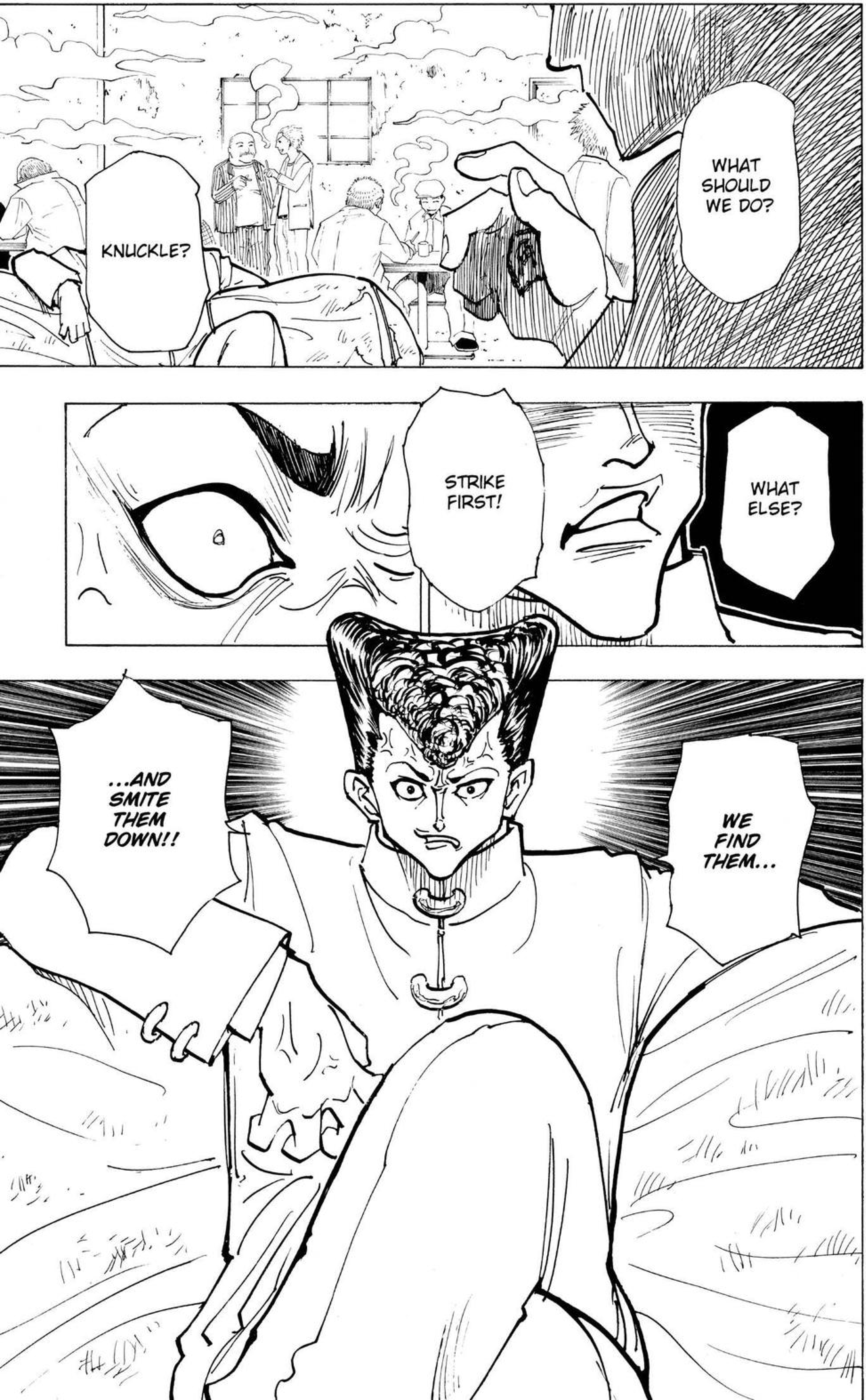

KNUCKLE AND SHOOT...
...ARE MOREL'S PUPILS.
THEY WERE GIVEN STIPULATIONS, TOO.
THOUGH I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY WERE.
ONLY ONE TEAM CAN GO TO NGL. THEM...
...OR US!
WE HAVE...
...ONE MONTH'S TIME!!

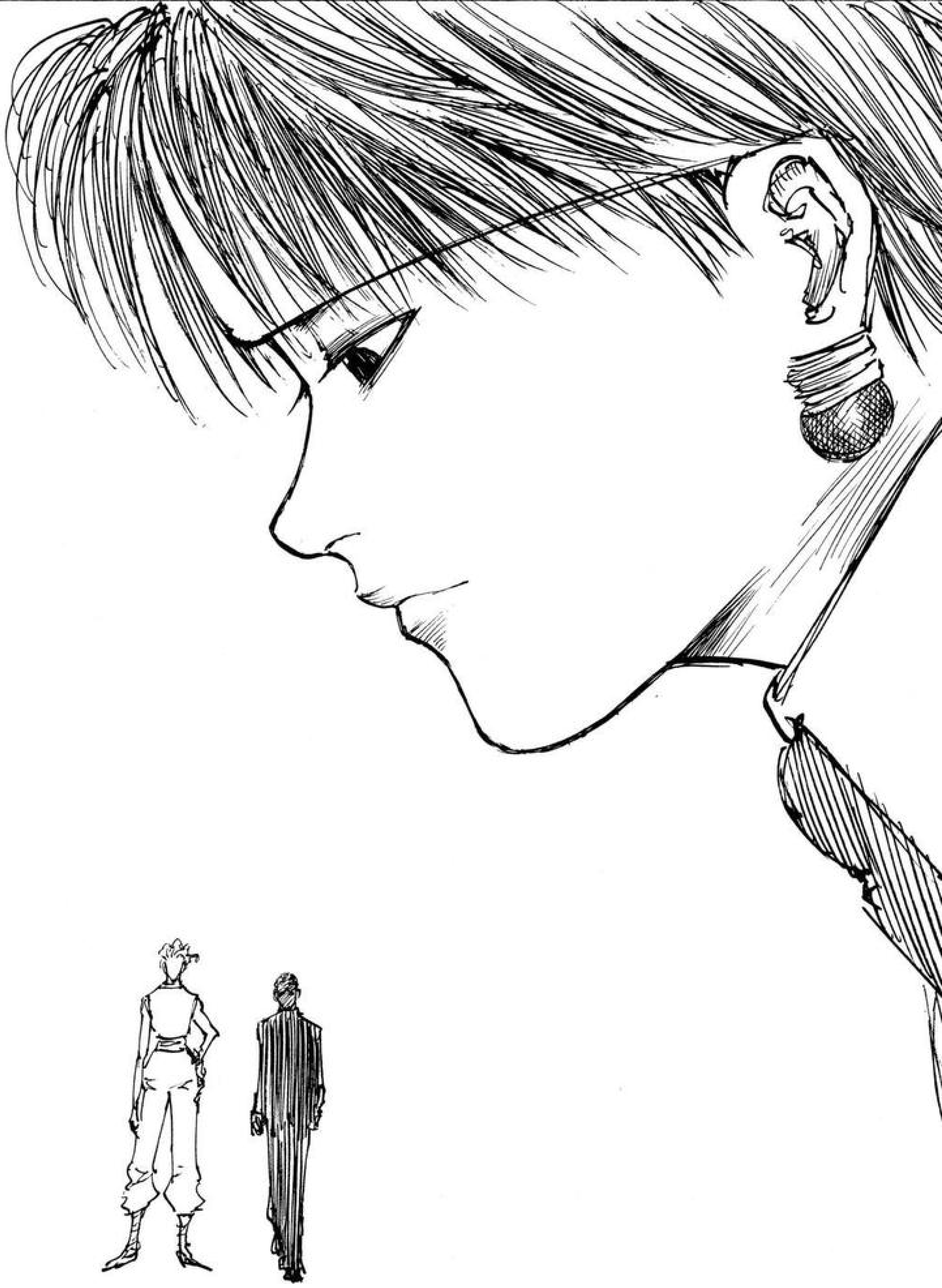

HHOOO
THAT WAS SO FUN!
IT FELT LIKE A DREAM.


I WISH I COULD DO IT AGAIN…
…WITH YOU…
…
OH!
SQUEE
I KNOW.
IT'S SIMPLE, REALLY.
UM…


ALL I NEED TO DO IS FIX HIM.
M
M
THAT'S...
...WHAT I'LL MAKE MY ABILITY BE.


SO THE RULE IS...
...WE HOLD ON TO THESE FOR ONE MONTH.
MEANS SOMEONE'S OUT TO GET THEM FROM US.
V
角
Mooo
角
FSSSH


WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
KNUCKLE?
WHAT ELSE?
STRIKE FIRST!
WE FIND THEM...
...AND SMITE THEM DOWN!!

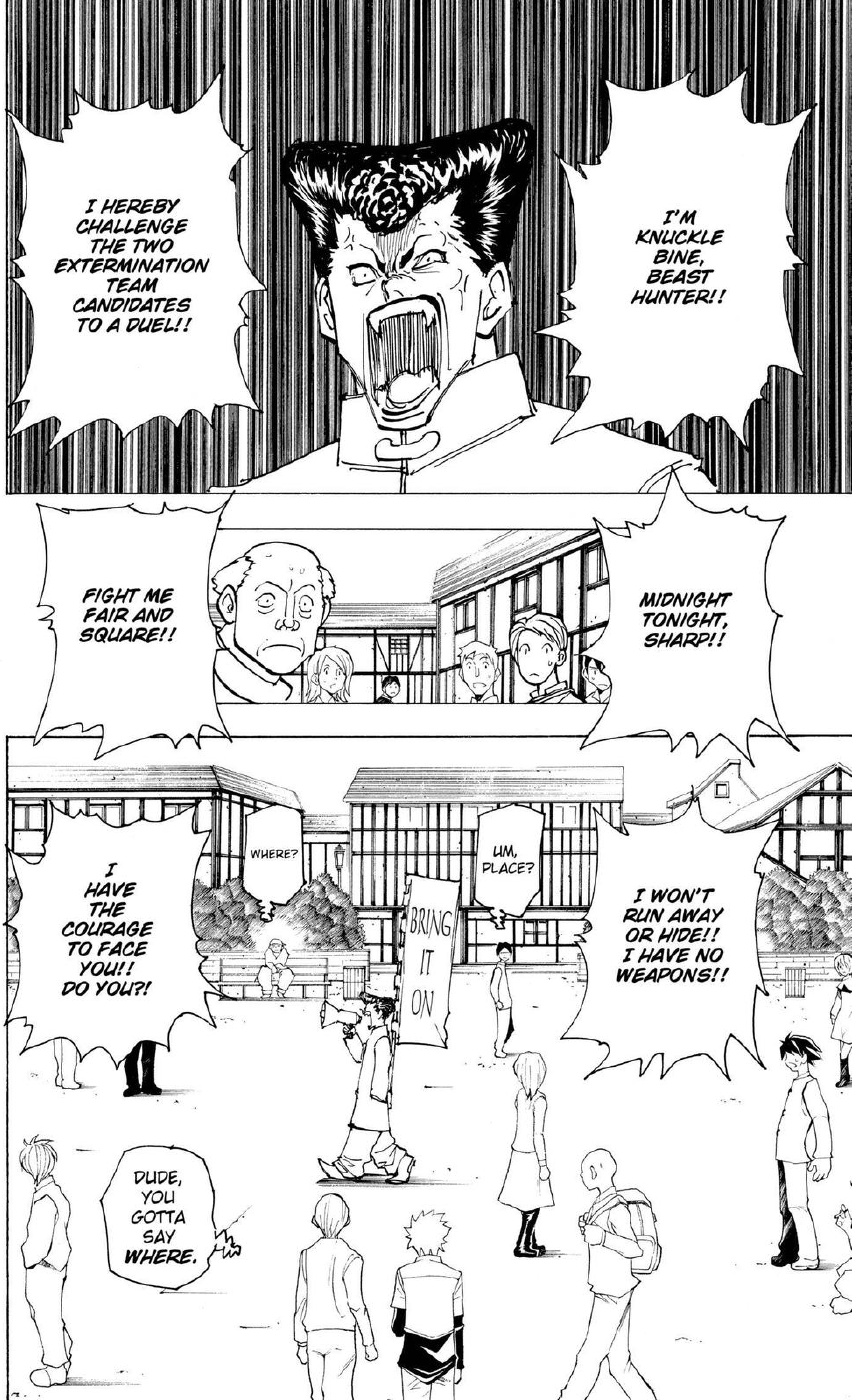


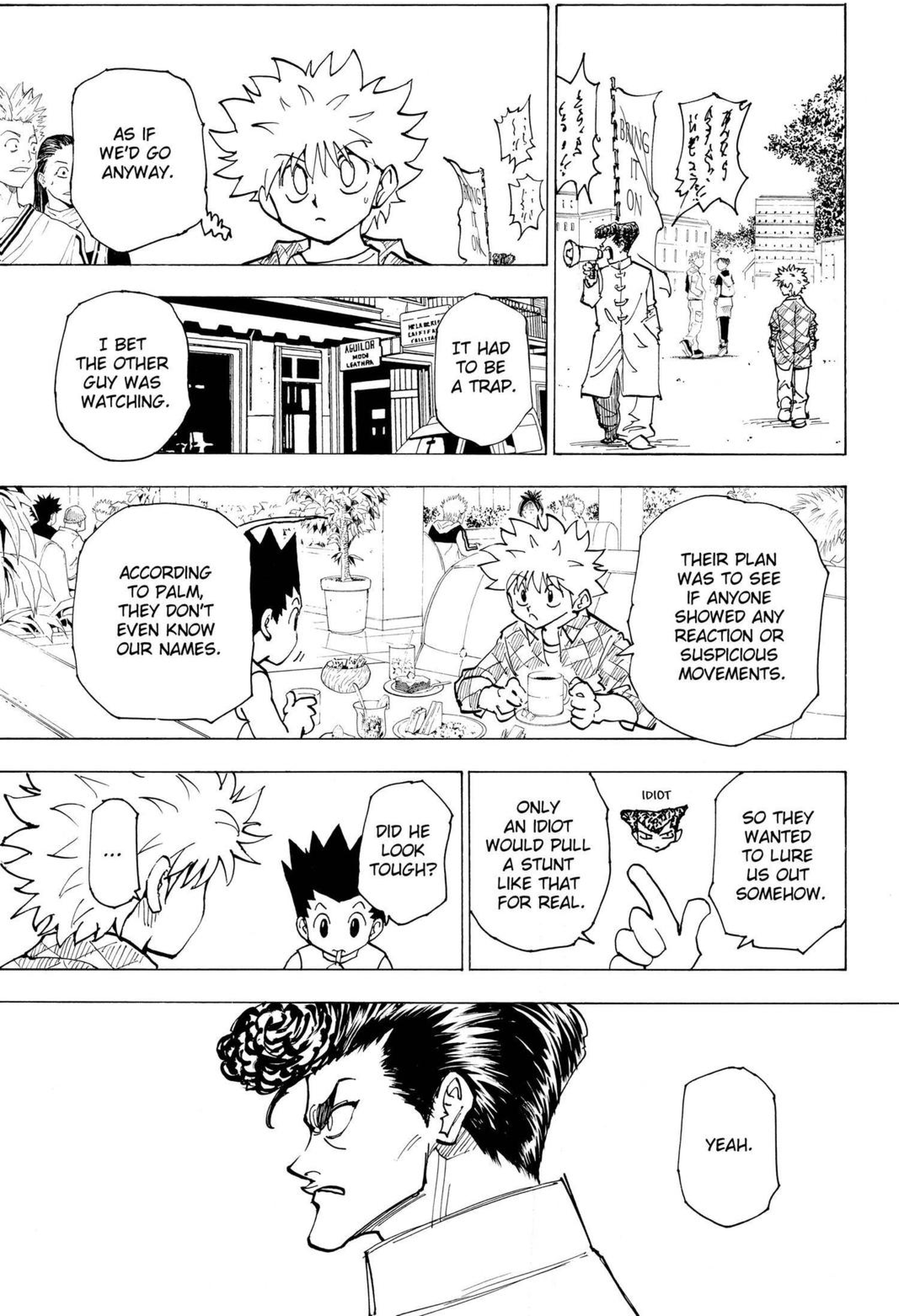
Chapter 201:

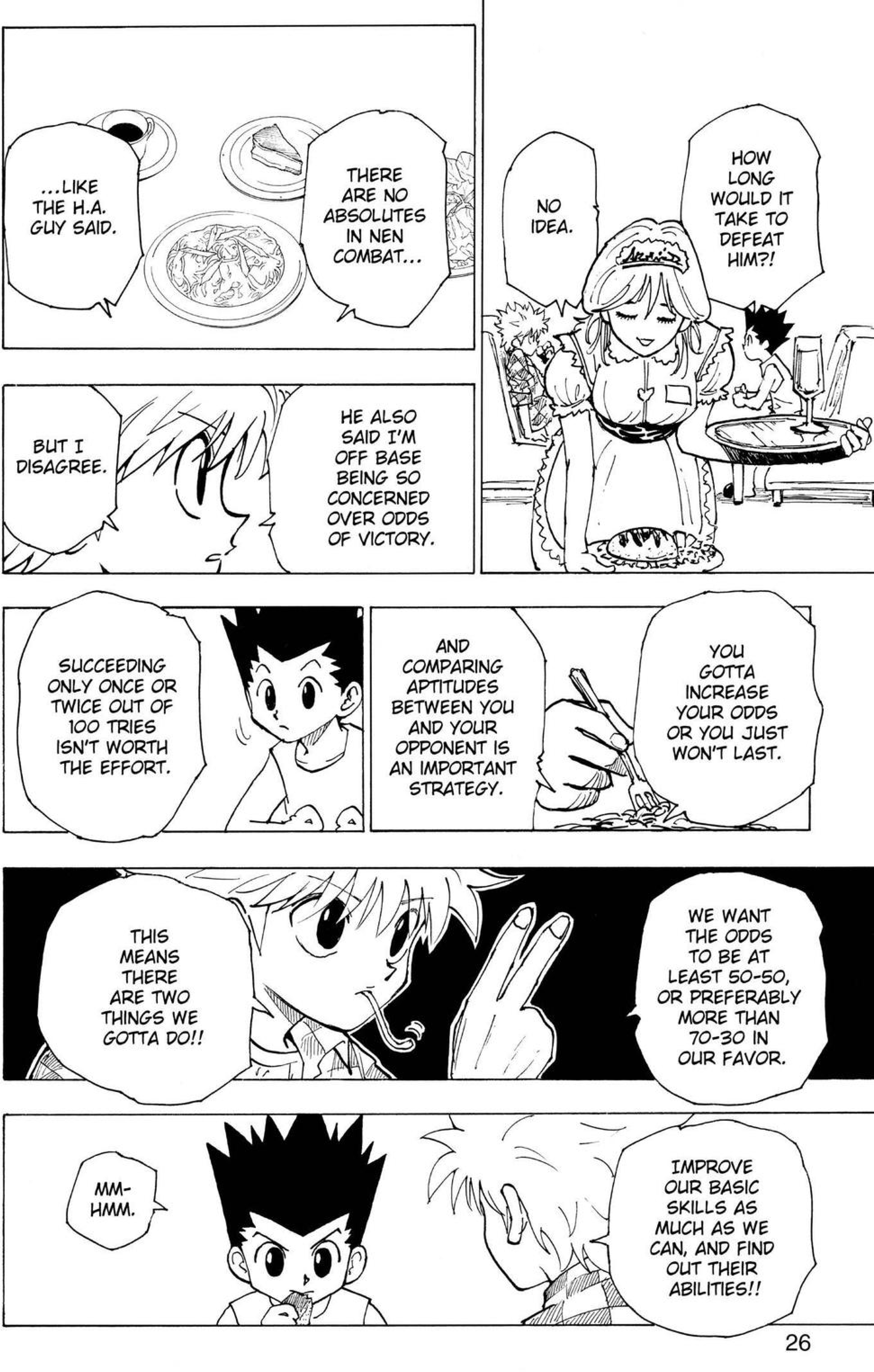
Reunion

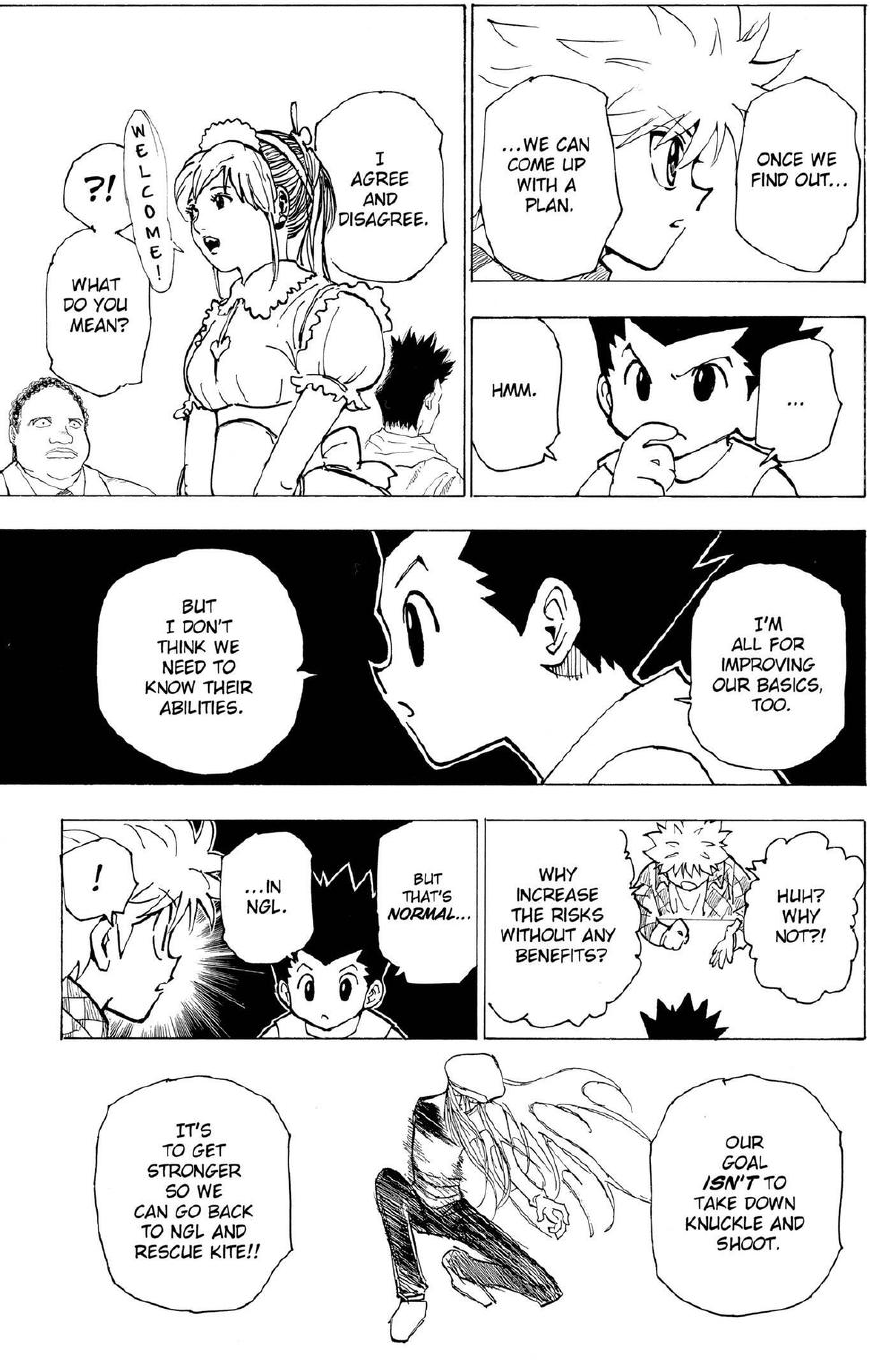
YEAH RIGHT !!!!
TEAM TECHNIQUE "YEAHRIGHT"! WOW!

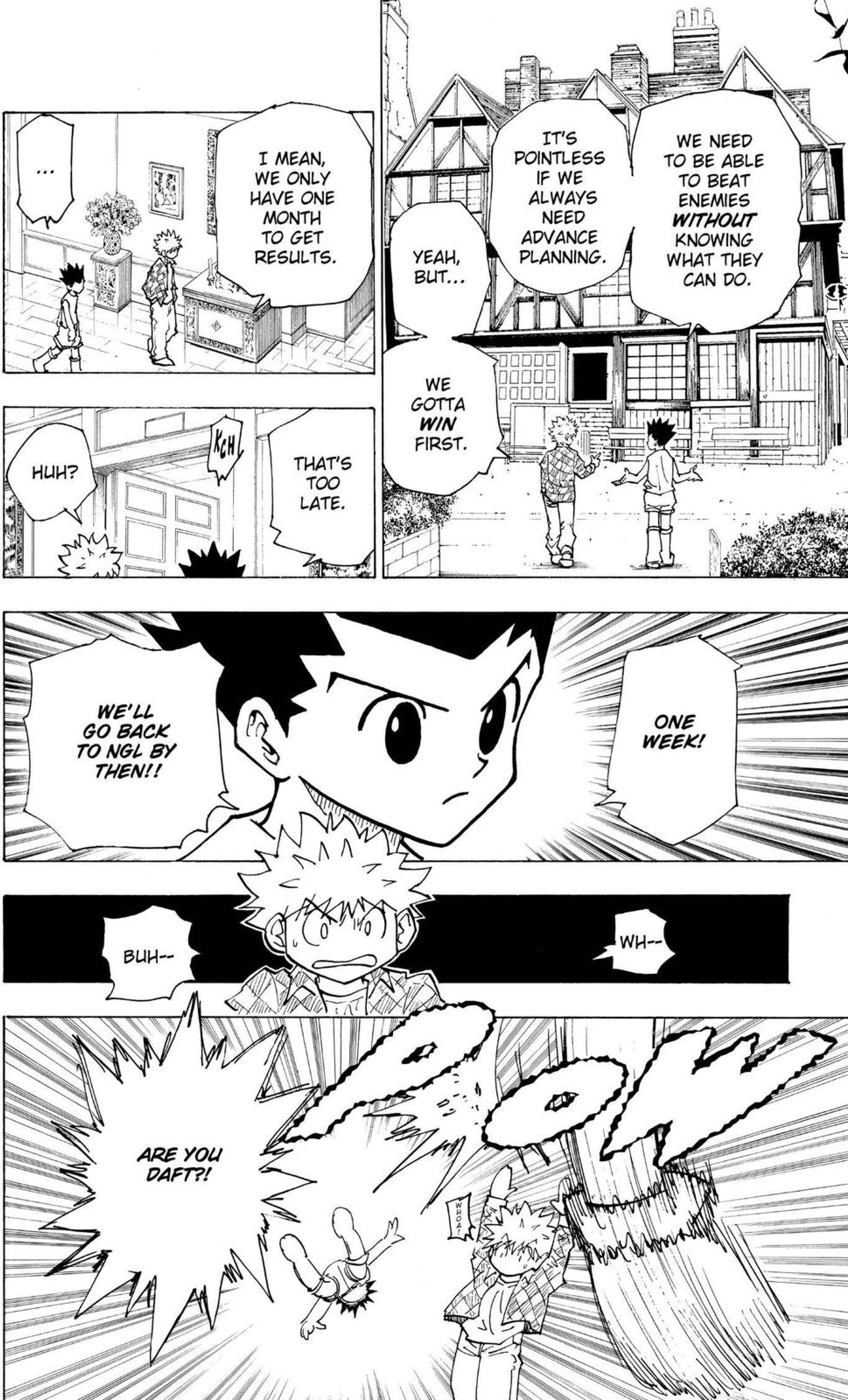
[CHROLLO IS CHECKING OUT THE PREVIOUS WEEK'S ***BO-BOBO*** IN ***WSJ.*** --ED]

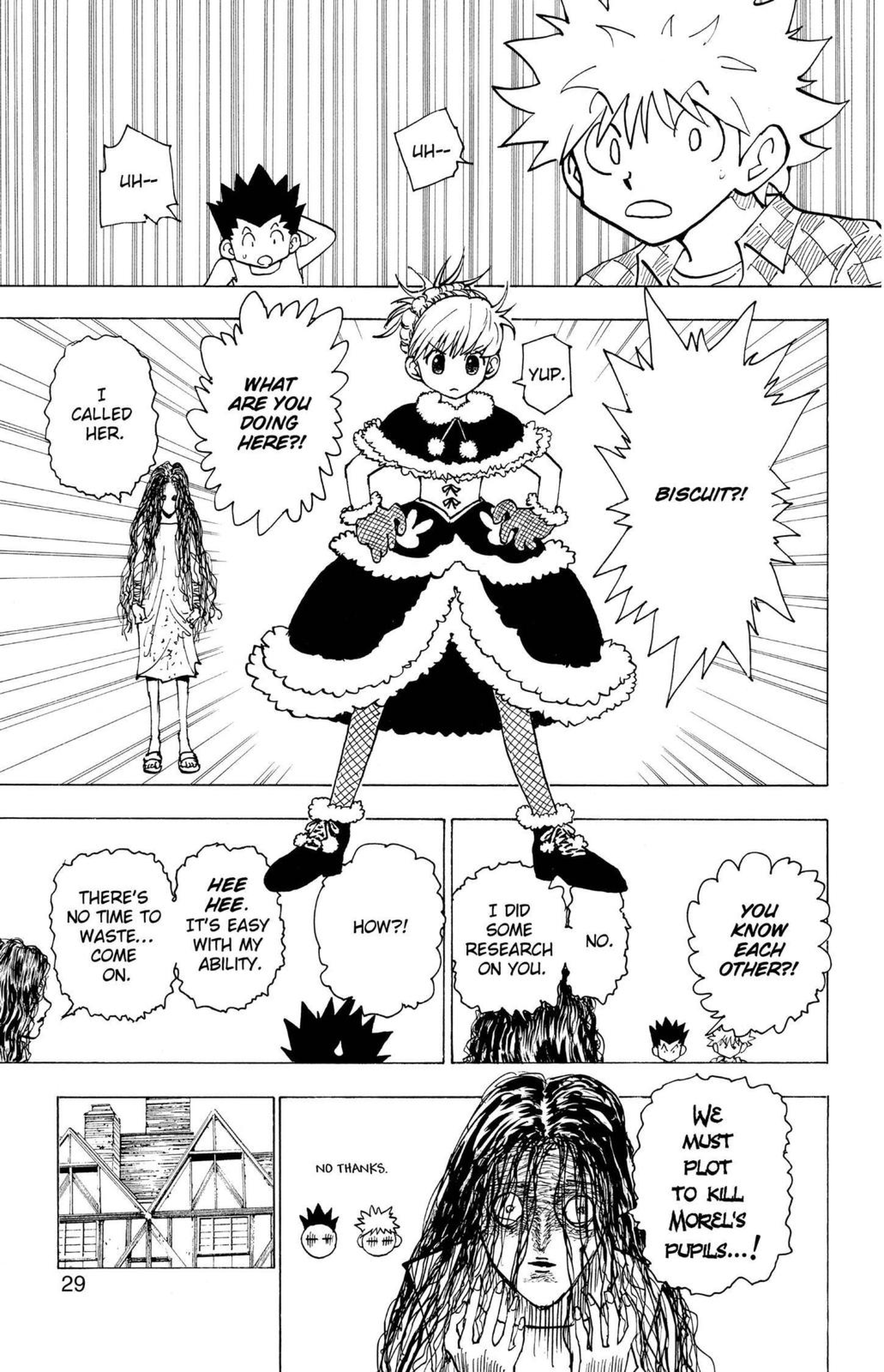

I'M KNUCKLE BINE, BEAST HUNTER!!
I HEREBY CHALLENGE THE TWO EXTERMINATION TEAM CANDIDATES TO A DUEL!!
MIDNIGHT TONIGHT, SHARP!!
FIGHT ME FAIR AND SQUARE!!
I WON'T RUN AWAY OR HIDE!! I HAVE NO WEAPONS!!
UM, PLACE?
BRING IT ON
WHERE?
I HAVE THE COURAGE TO FACE YOU!! DO YOU?!
DUDE, YOU GOTTA SAY WHERE.

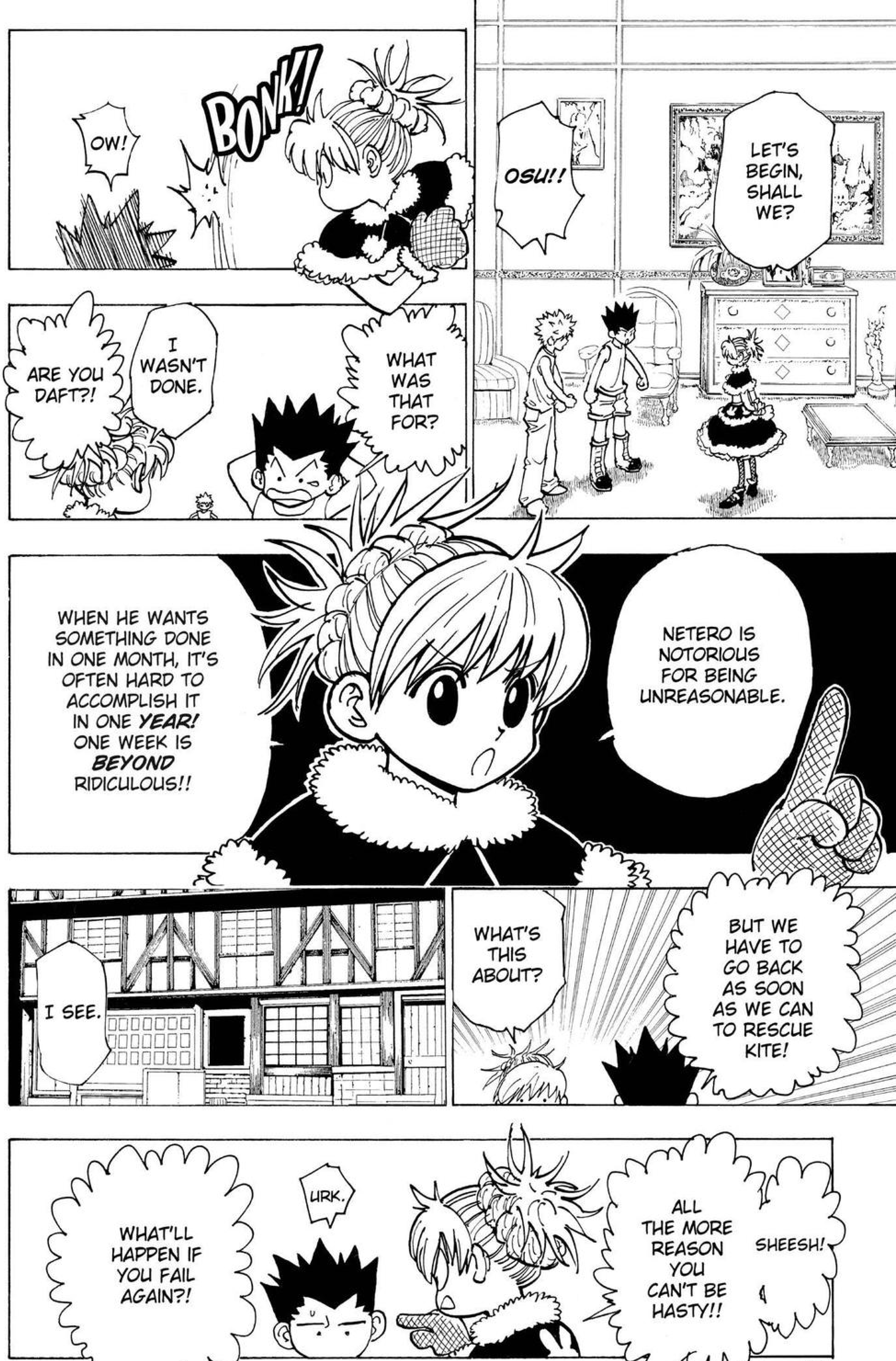

BRING IT ON
AS IF WE'D GO ANYWAY.
BRING IT ON
IT HAD TO BE A TRAP.
I BET THE OTHER GUY WAS WATCHING.
THEIR PLAN WAS TO SEE IF ANYONE SHOWED ANY REACTION OR SUSPICIOUS MOVEMENTS.
ACCORDING TO PALM, THEY DON'T EVEN KNOW OUR NAMES.
SO THEY WANTED TO LURE US OUT SOMEHOW.
IDIOT
ONLY AN IDIOT WOULD PULL A STUNT LIKE THAT FOR REAL.
DID HE LOOK TOUGH?
...
YEAH.

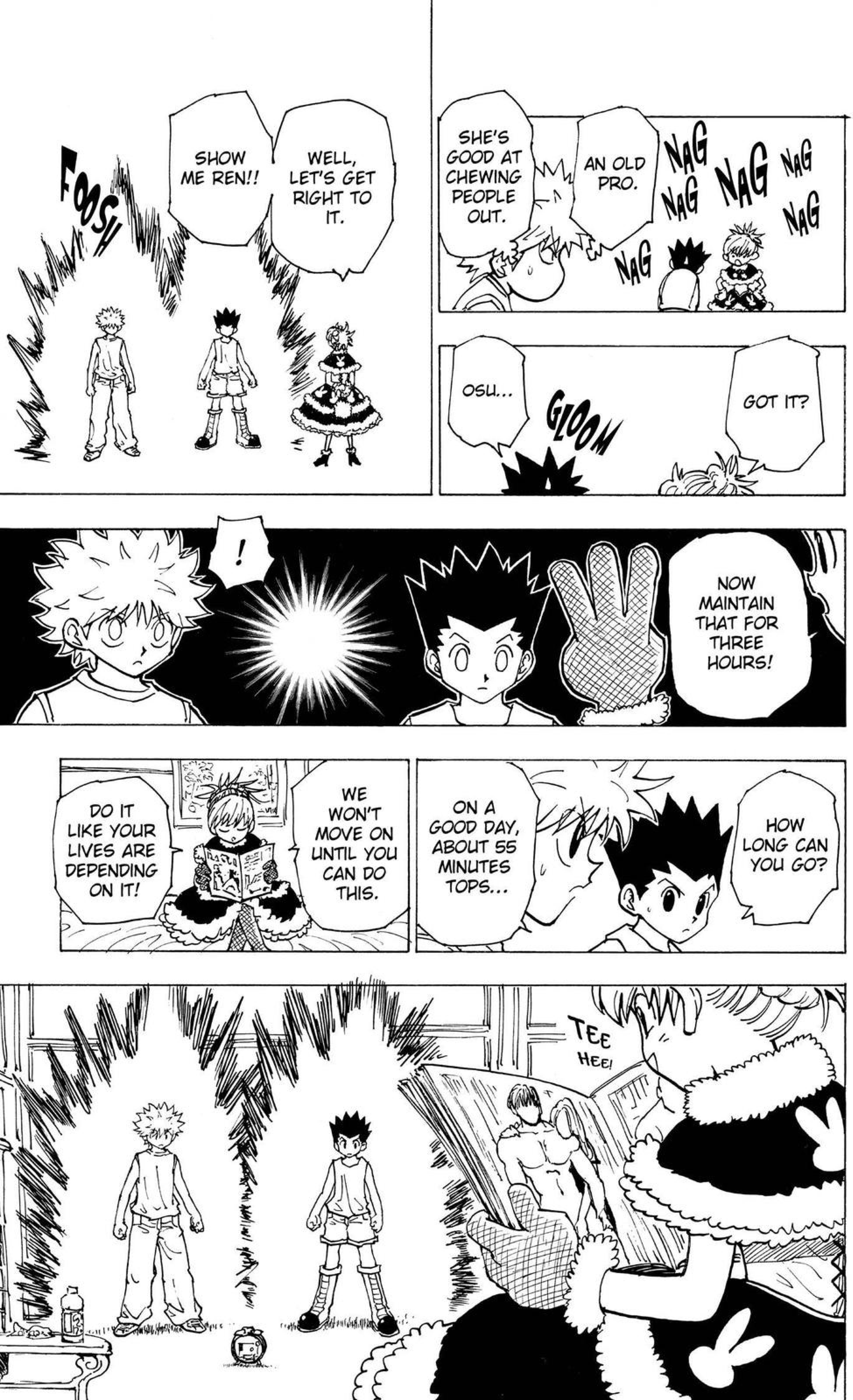

HOW LONG WOULD IT TAKE TO DEFEAT HIM?!
NO IDEA.
THERE ARE NO ABSOLUTES IN NEN COMBAT...
...LIKE THE H.A. GUY SAID.
HE ALSO SAID I'M OFF BASE BEING SO CONCERNED OVER ODDS OF VICTORY.
BUT I DISAGREE.
YOU GOTTA INCREASE YOUR ODDS OR YOU JUST WON'T LAST.
AND COMPARING APTITUDES BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR OPPONENT IS AN IMPORTANT STRATEGY.
SUCCEEDING ONLY ONCE OR TWICE OUT OF 100 TRIES ISN'T WORTH THE EFFORT.
WE WANT THE ODDS TO BE AT LEAST 50-50, OR PREFERABLY MORE THAN 70-30 IN OUR FAVOR.
THIS MEANS THERE ARE TWO THINGS WE GOTTA DO!!
IMPROVE OUR BASIC SKILLS AS MUCH AS WE CAN, AND FIND OUT THEIR ABILITIES!!
MM-HMM.

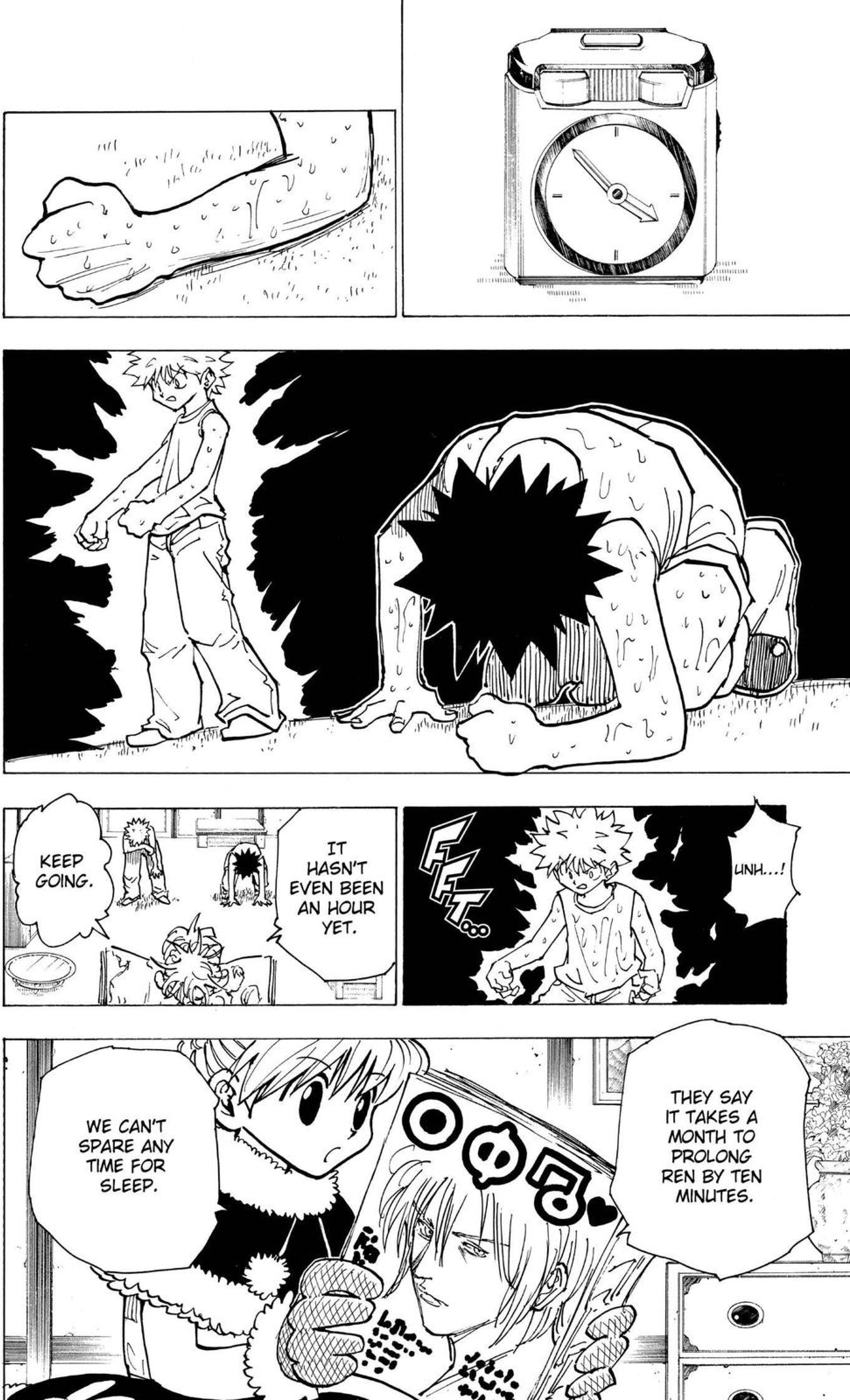

ONCE WE FIND OUT...
...WE CAN COME UP WITH A PLAN.
...
HMM.
I AGREE AND DISAGREE.
WELCOME!
?!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I'M ALL FOR IMPROVING OUR BASICS, TOO.
BUT I DON'T THINK WE NEED TO KNOW THEIR ABILITIES.
HUH? WHY NOT?!
WHY INCREASE THE RISKS WITHOUT ANY BENEFITS?
BUT THAT'S *NORMAL*...
...IN NGL.
!
OUR GOAL *ISN'T* TO TAKE DOWN KNUCKLE AND SHOOT.
IT'S TO GET STRONGER SO WE CAN GO BACK TO NGL AND RESCUE KITE!!

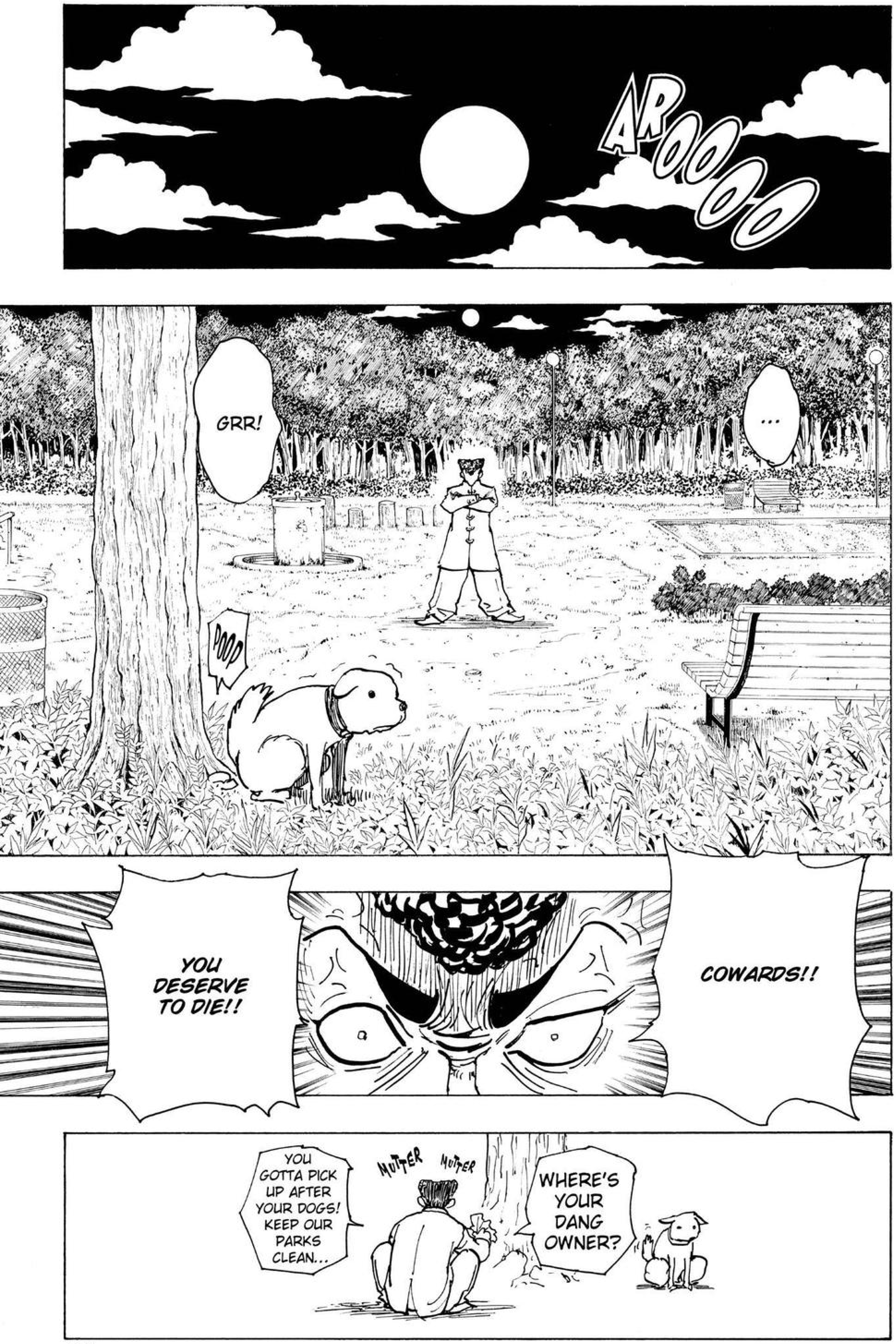

WE NEED TO BE ABLE TO BEAT ENEMIES *WITHOUT* KNOWING WHAT THEY CAN DO.
IT'S POINTLESS IF WE ALWAYS NEED ADVANCE PLANNING.
YEAH, BUT...
WE GOTTA *WIN* FIRST.
I MEAN, WE ONLY HAVE ONE MONTH TO GET RESULTS.
...
THAT'S TOO LATE.
KCH
HUH?
ONE WEEK!
WE'LL GO BACK TO NGL BY THEN!!
WH--
BUH--
BOOM
ARE YOU DAFT?!
WHOA!

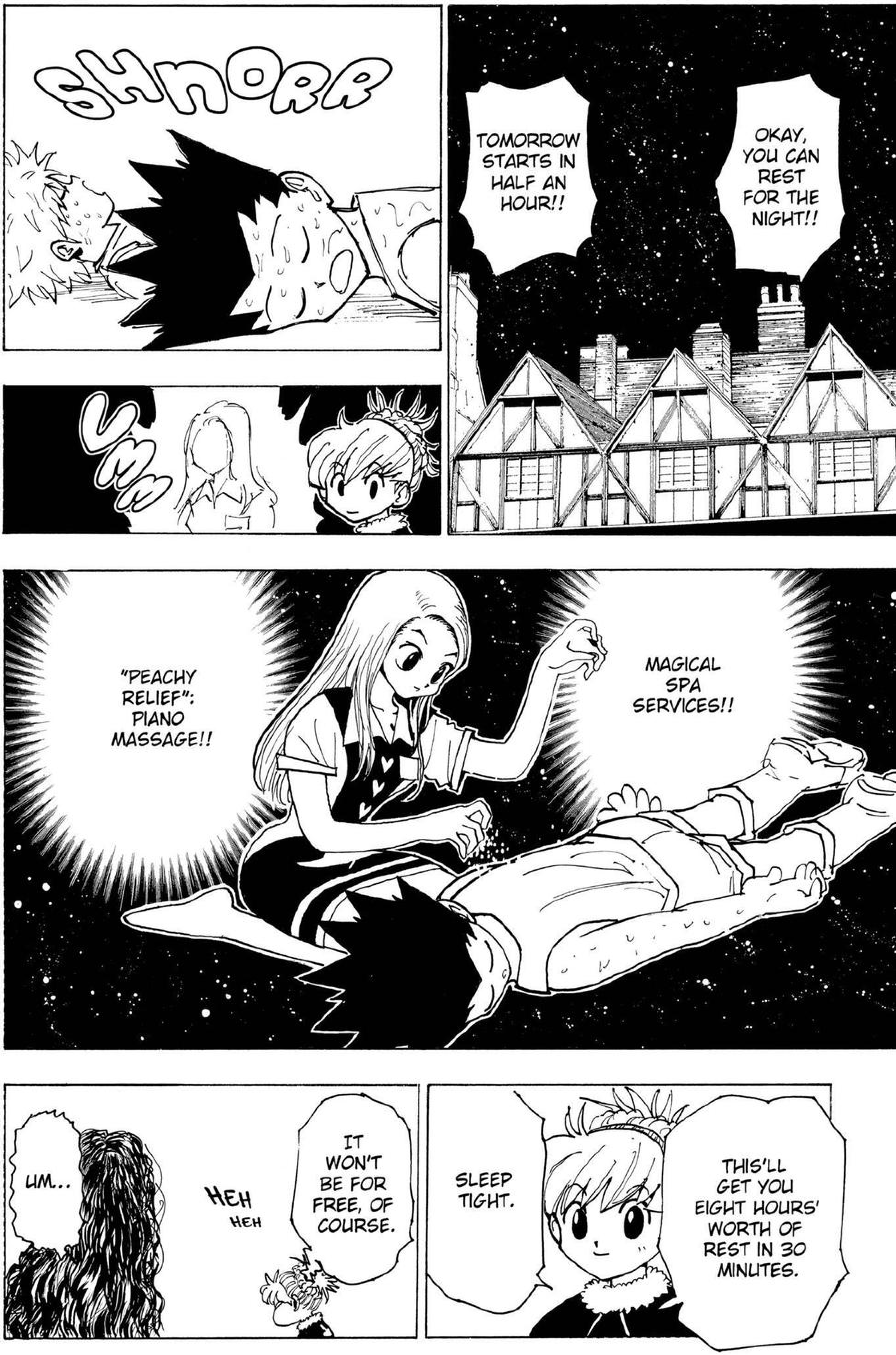

UH--
UH--
BISCUIT?!
YUP.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
I CALLED HER.
YOU KNOW EACH OTHER?!
NO.
I DID SOME RESEARCH ON YOU.
HOW?!
HEE HEE. IT'S EASY WITH MY ABILITY.
THERE'S NO TIME TO WASTE... COME ON.
WE MUST PLOT TO KILL MOREL'S PUPILS...!
NO THANKS.

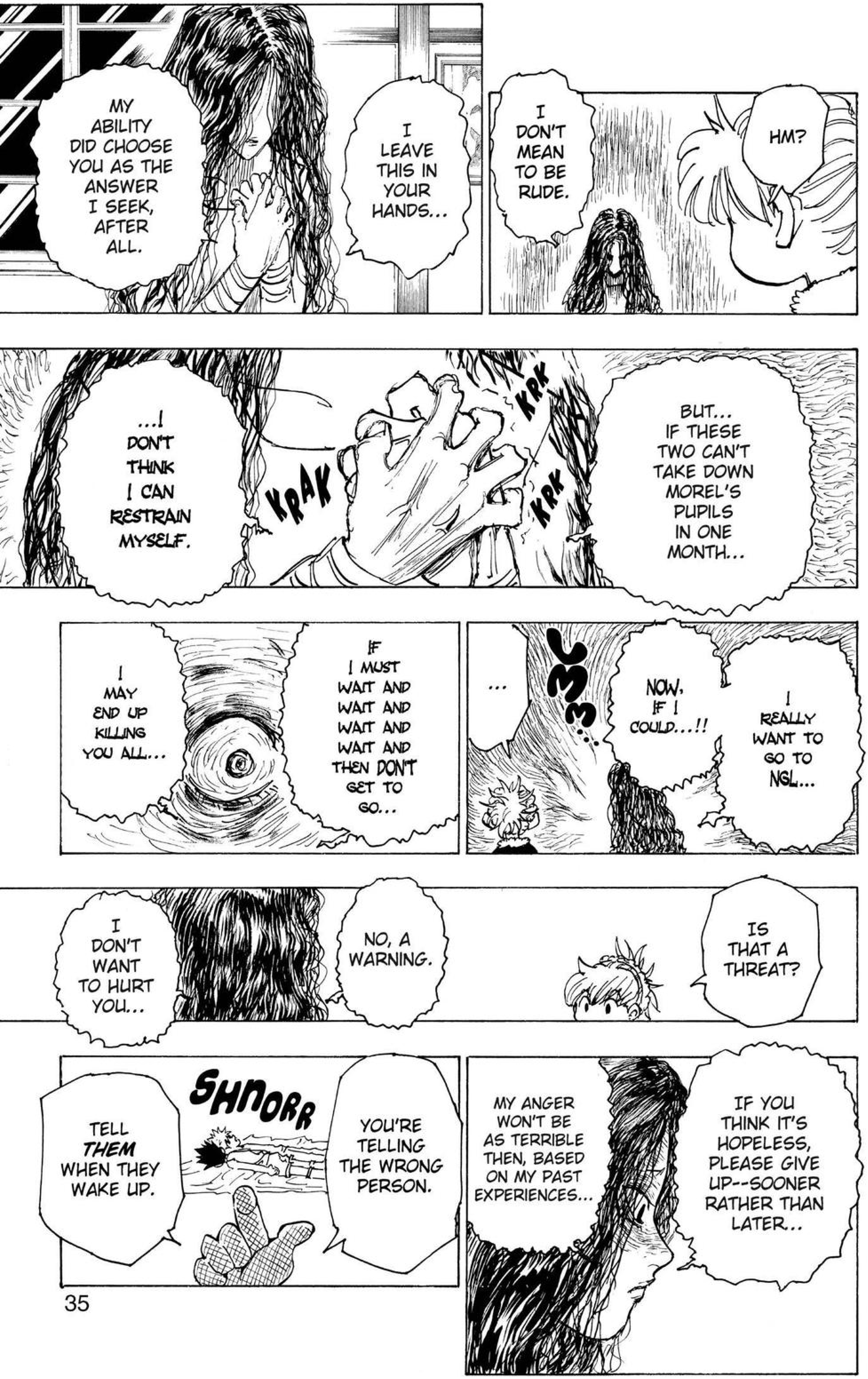

LET'S BEGIN, SHALL WE?
OSU!!
BONK!!
OW!
WHAT WAS THAT FOR?
I WASN'T DONE.
ARE YOU DAFT?!
NETERO IS NOTORIOUS FOR BEING UNREASONABLE.
WHEN HE WANTS SOMETHING DONE IN ONE MONTH, IT'S OFTEN HARD TO ACCOMPLISH IT IN ONE YEAR! ONE WEEK IS BEYOND RIDICULOUS!!
BUT WE HAVE TO GO BACK AS SOON AS WE CAN TO RESCUE KITE!
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?
I SEE.
SHEESH!
ALL THE MORE REASON YOU CAN'T BE HASTY!!
URK.
WHAT'LL HAPPEN IF YOU FAIL AGAIN?!

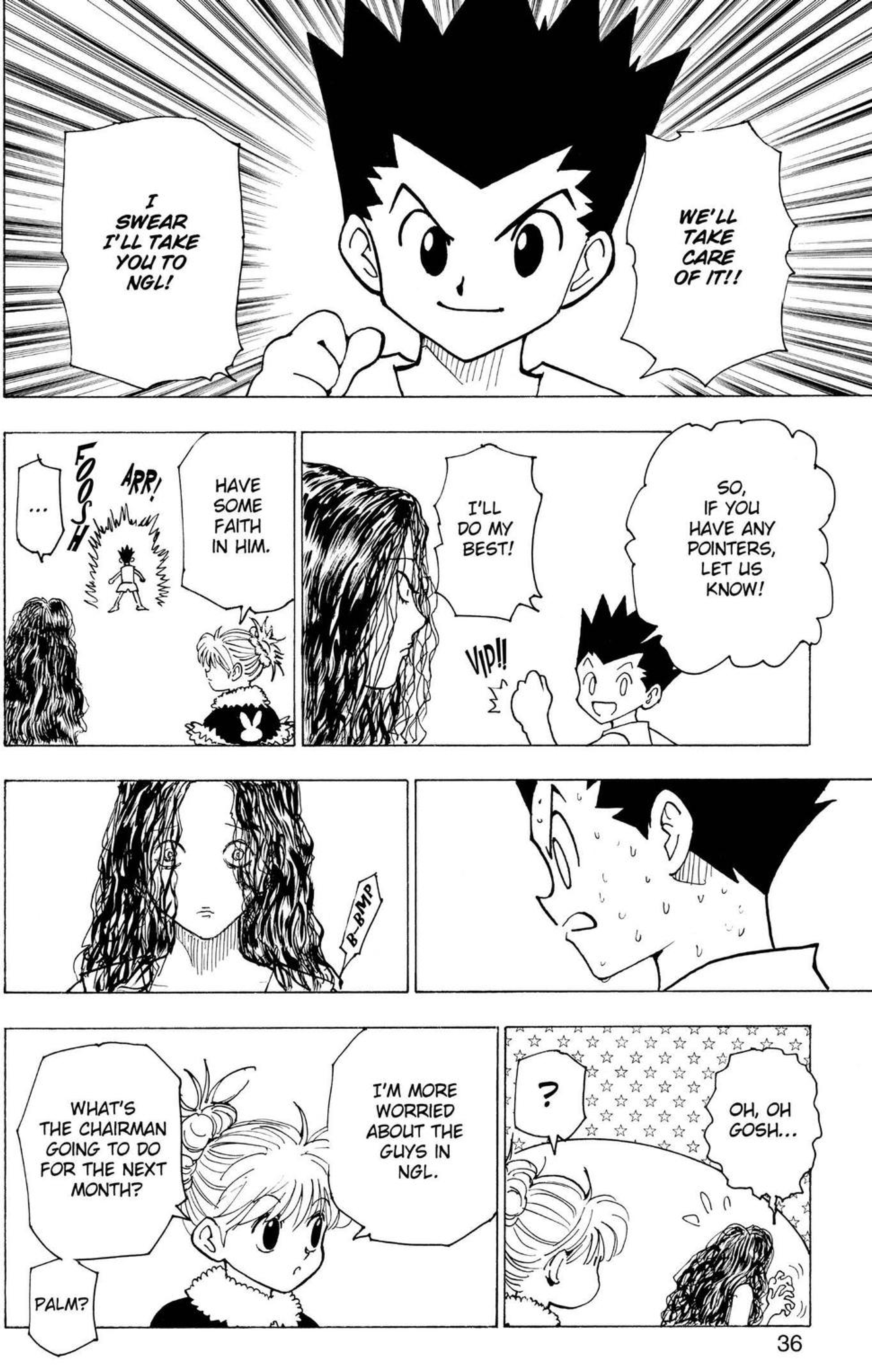

NAG NAG NAG NAG NAG NAG
SHE'S GOOD AT CHEWING PEOPLE OUT.
AN OLD PRO.
GOT IT?
GLOOM
OSU...
WELL, LET'S GET RIGHT TO IT.
SHOW ME REN!!
FOOSH
NOW MAINTAIN THAT FOR THREE HOURS!
!
HOW LONG CAN YOU GO?
ON A GOOD DAY, ABOUT 55 MINUTES TOPS...
WE WON'T MOVE ON UNTIL YOU CAN DO THIS.
DO IT LIKE YOUR LIVES ARE DEPENDING ON IT!
TEE HEE!

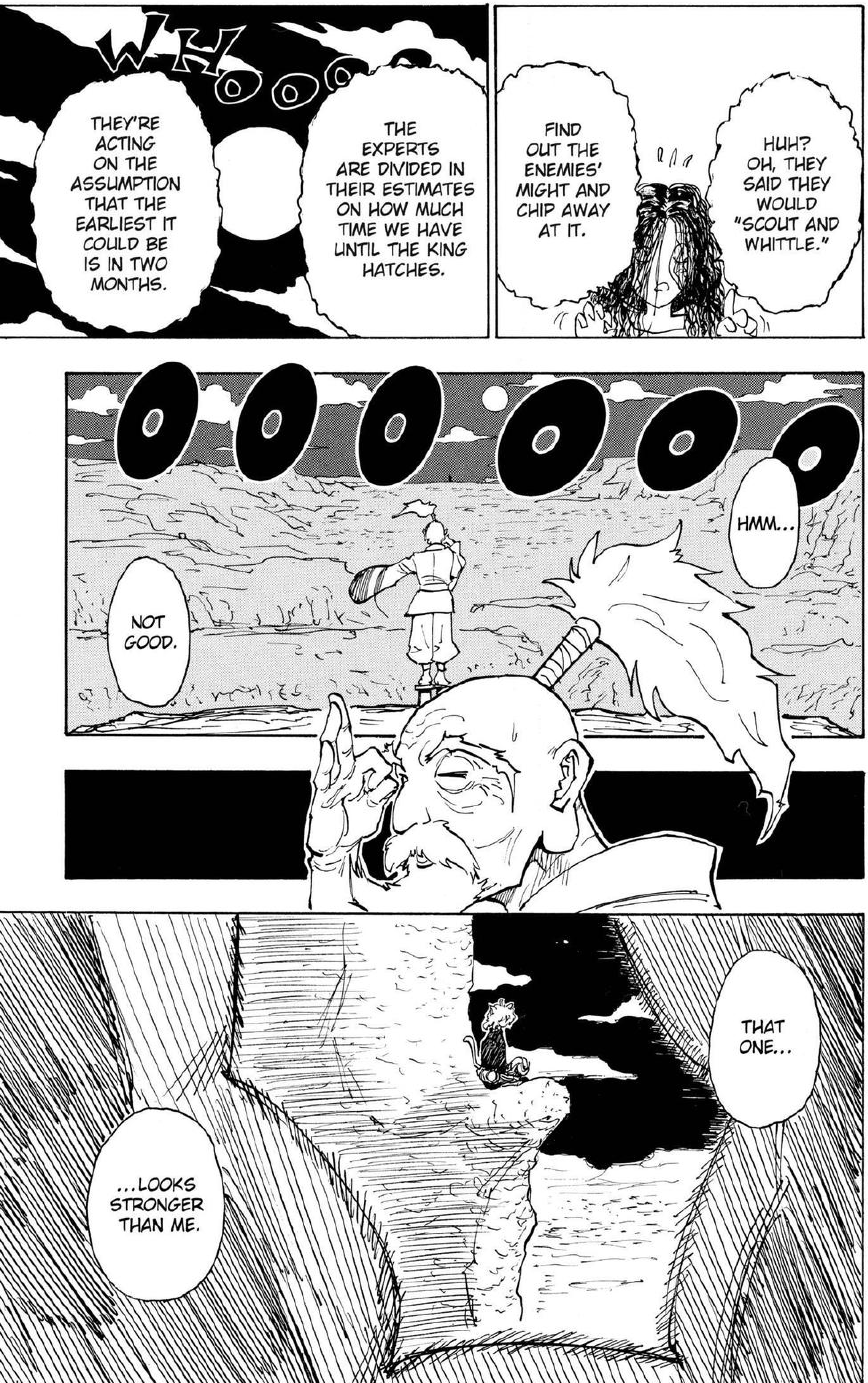

FFT...
UNH...!
IT HASN'T EVEN BEEN AN HOUR YET.
KEEP GOING.
THEY SAY IT TAKES A MONTH TO PROLONG REN BY TEN MINUTES.
WE CAN'T SPARE ANY TIME FOR SLEEP.


AROOOO
...
GRR!
POOP
COWARDS!!
YOU DESERVE TO DIE!!
WHERE'S YOUR DANG OWNER?
MUTTER MUTTER
YOU GOTTA PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOGS! KEEP OUR PARKS CLEAN...

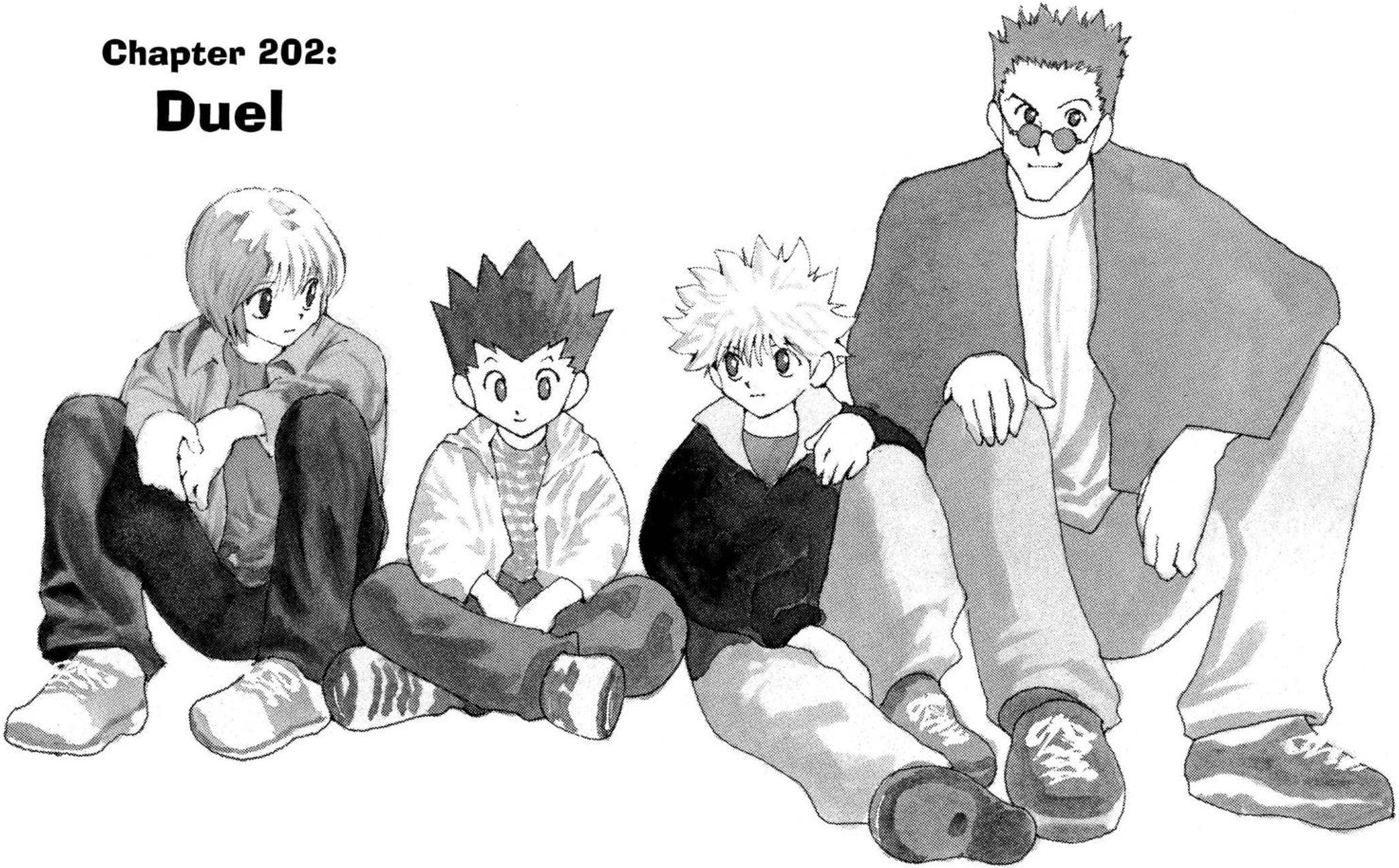

OKAY, YOU CAN REST FOR THE NIGHT!!
TOMORROW STARTS IN HALF AN HOUR!!
SHNORR
UMM
MAGICAL SPA SERVICES!!
"PEACHY RELIEF": PIANO MASSAGE!!
THIS'LL GET YOU EIGHT HOURS' WORTH OF REST IN 30 MINUTES.
SLEEP TIGHT.
IT WON'T BE FOR FREE, OF COURSE.
HEH HEH
UM...

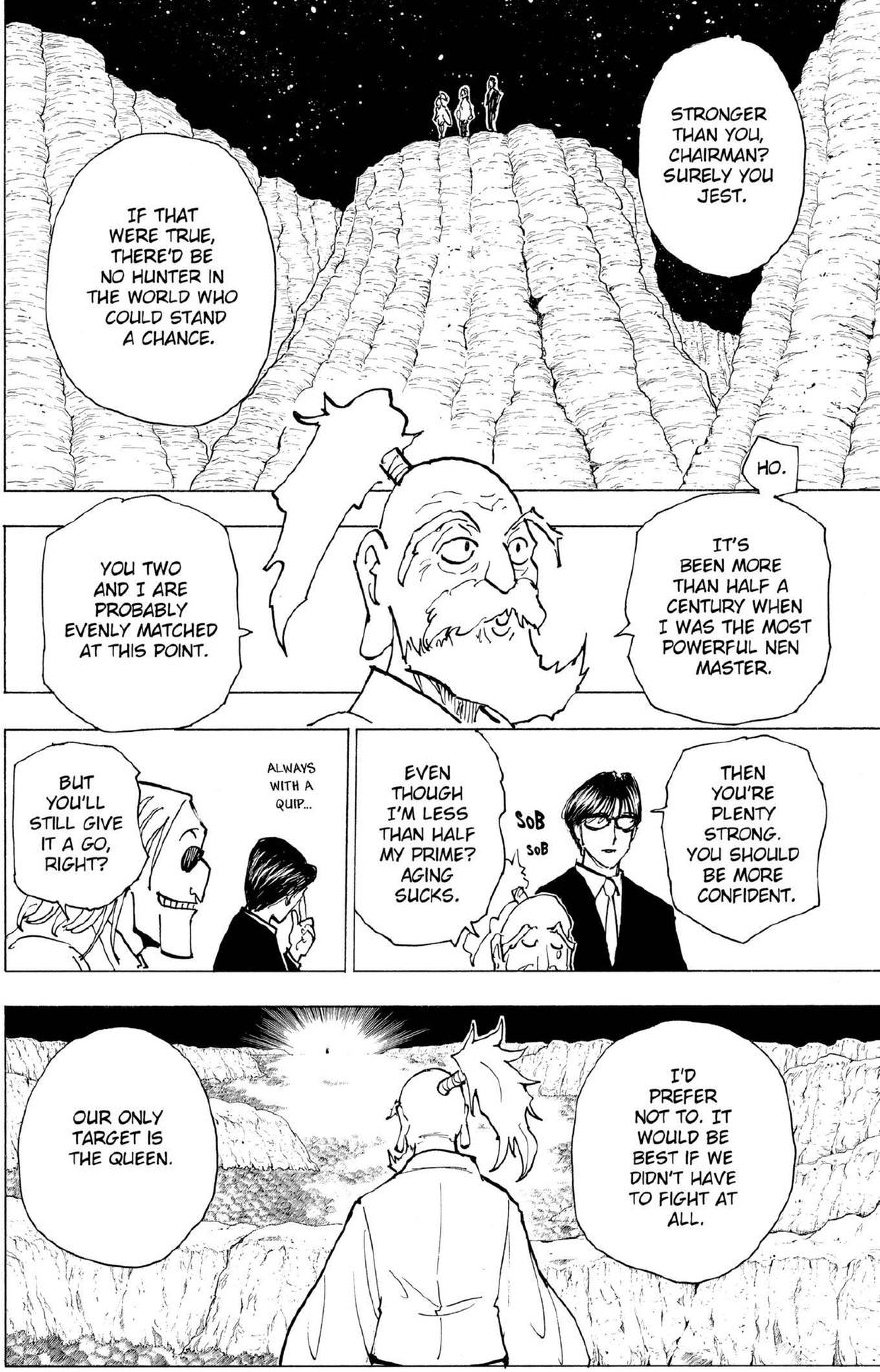

HM?
I DON'T MEAN TO BE RUDE.
I LEAVE THIS IN YOUR HANDS...
MY ABILITY DID CHOOSE YOU AS THE ANSWER I SEEK, AFTER ALL.
BUT... IF THESE TWO CAN'T TAKE DOWN MOREL'S PUPILS IN ONE MONTH...
KRK
KRK
KRAK
...I DON'T THINK I CAN RESTRAIN MYSELF.
I REALLY WANT TO GO TO NGL...
NOW, IF I COULD...!!
UMM...
...
IF I MUST WAIT AND WAIT AND WAIT AND WAIT AND THEN DON'T GET TO GO...
I MAY END UP KILLING YOU ALL...
IS THAT A THREAT?
NO, A WARNING.
I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU...
IF YOU THINK IT'S HOPELESS, PLEASE GIVE UP--SOONER RATHER THAN LATER...
MY ANGER WON'T BE AS TERRIBLE THEN, BASED ON MY PAST EXPERIENCES...
YOU'RE TELLING THE WRONG PERSON.
SHNORR
TELL *THEM* WHEN THEY WAKE UP.

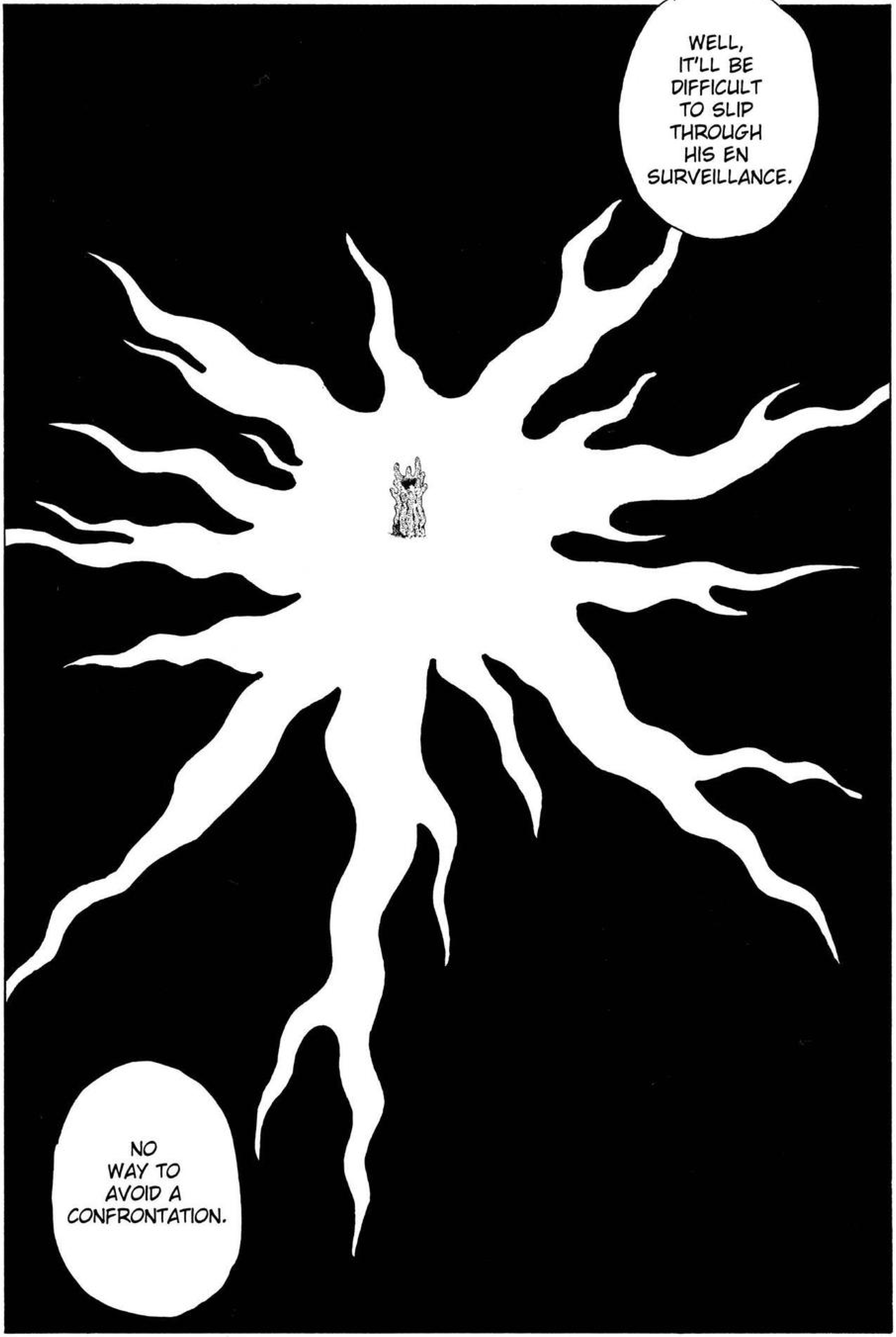

WE'LL TAKE CARE OF IT!!
I SWEAR I'LL TAKE YOU TO NGL!
SO, IF YOU HAVE ANY POINTERS, LET US KNOW!
I'LL DO MY BEST!
VIP!!
HAVE SOME FAITH IN HIM.
ARR!
FOOSH
...
B-BMP
OH, OH GOSH...
?
I'M MORE WORRIED ABOUT THE GUYS IN NGL.
WHAT'S THE CHAIRMAN GOING TO DO FOR THE NEXT MONTH?
PALM?

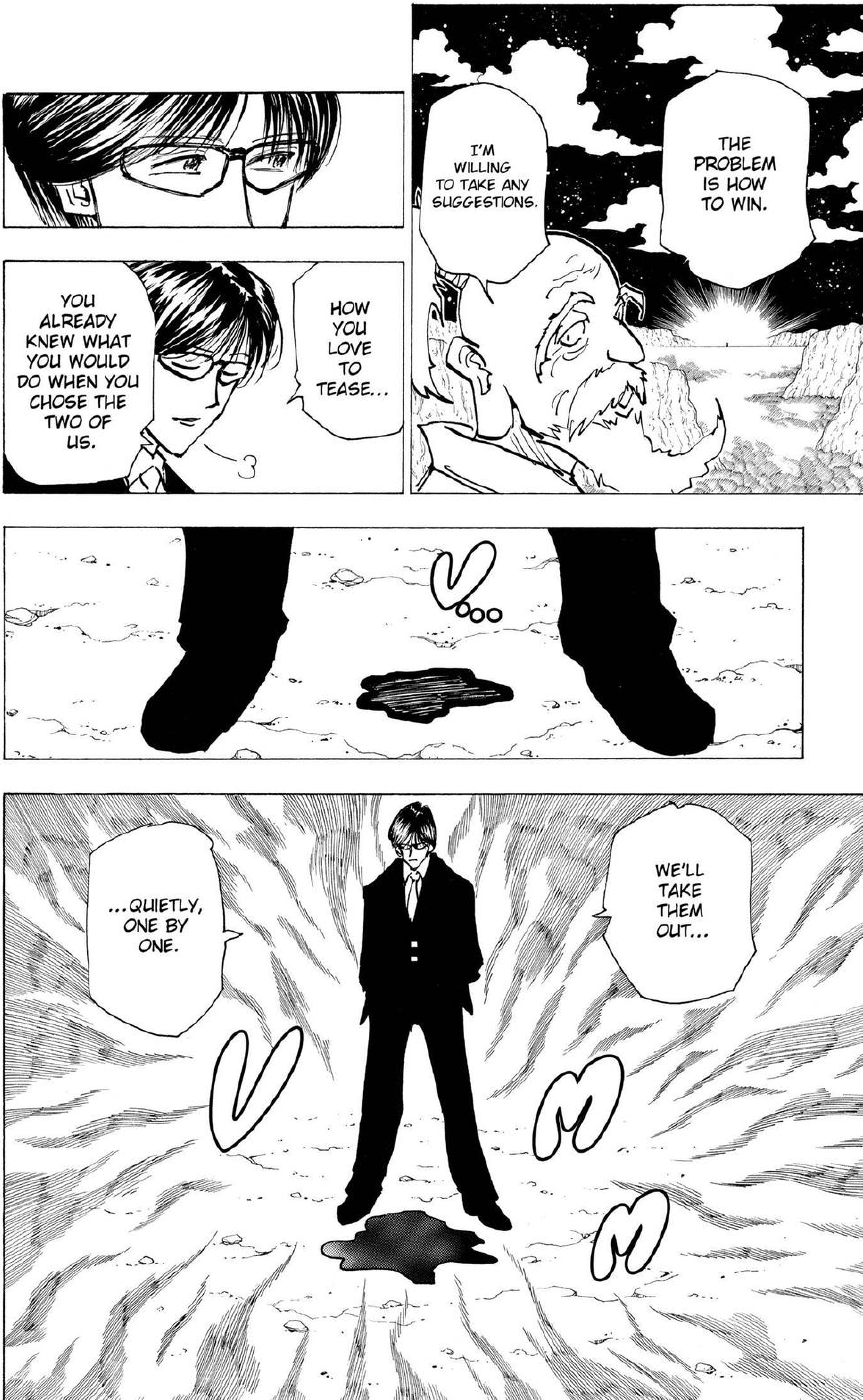

HUH? OH, THEY SAID THEY WOULD "SCOUT AND WHITTLE."
FIND OUT THE ENEMIES' MIGHT AND CHIP AWAY AT IT.
WHOOO
THE EXPERTS ARE DIVIDED IN THEIR ESTIMATES ON HOW MUCH TIME WE HAVE UNTIL THE KING HATCHES.
THEY'RE ACTING ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE EARLIEST IT COULD BE IS IN TWO MONTHS.
OOOOOO
HMM...
NOT GOOD.
THAT ONE...
...LOOKS STRONGER THAN ME.

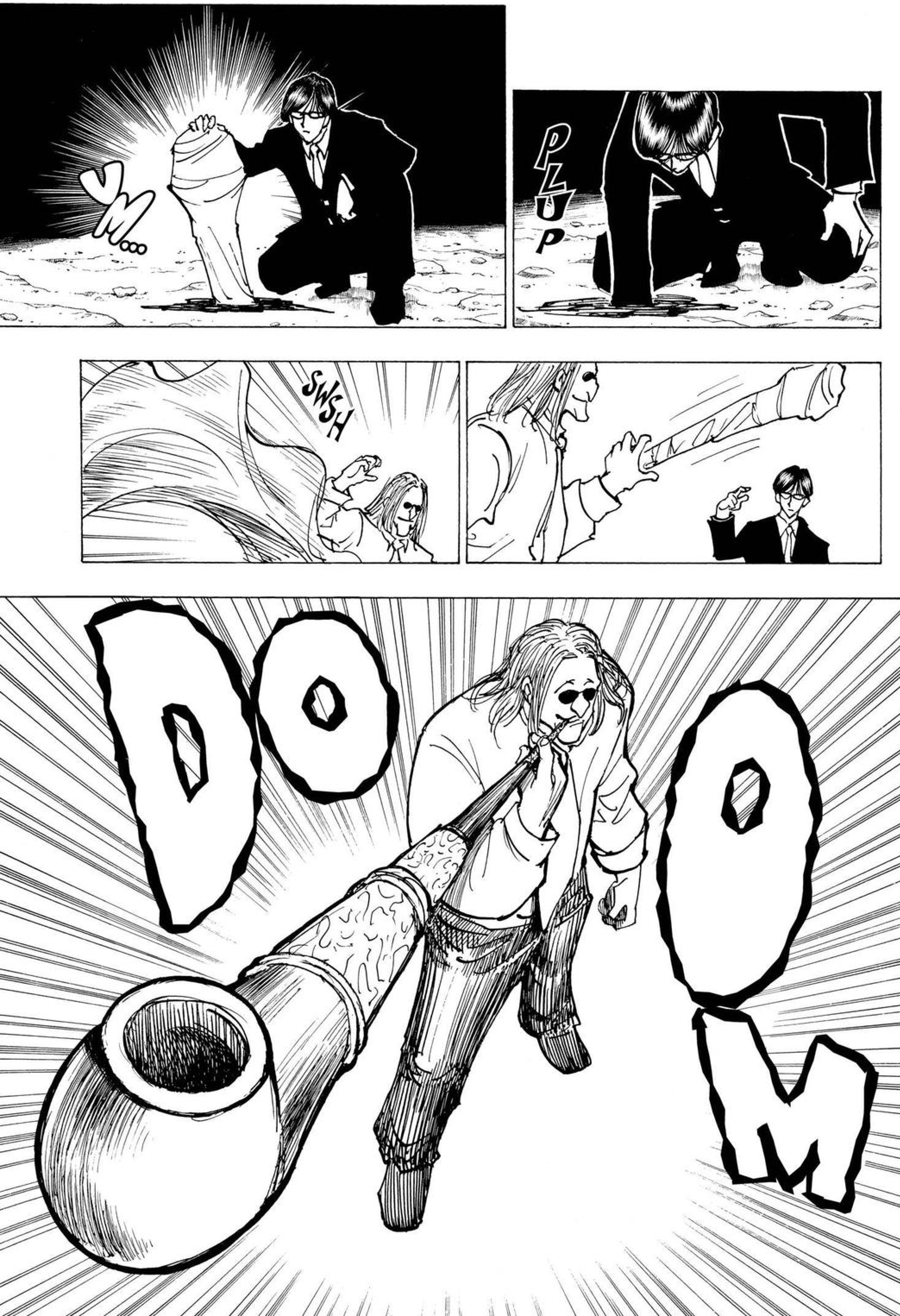
Chapter 202:
Duel

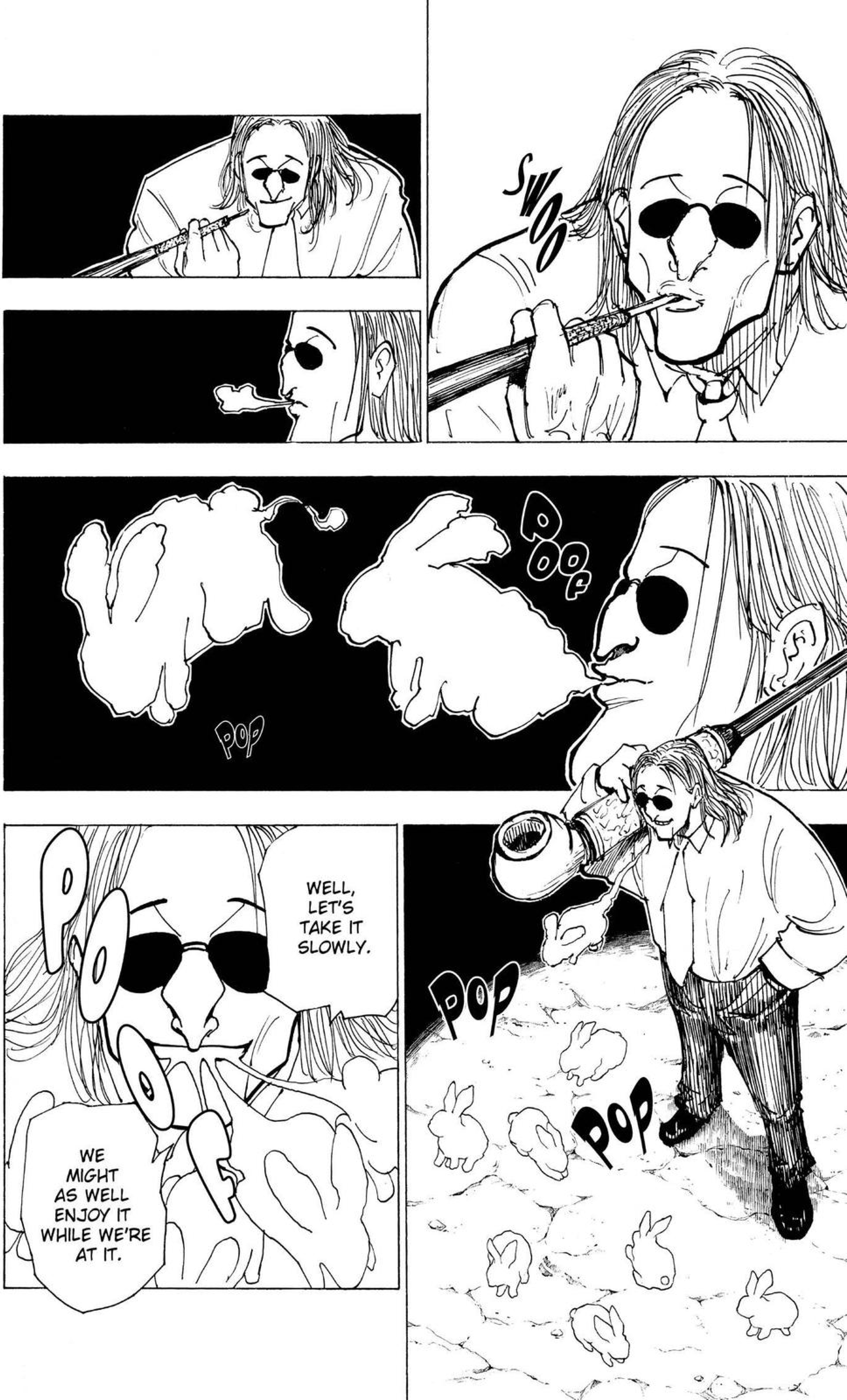


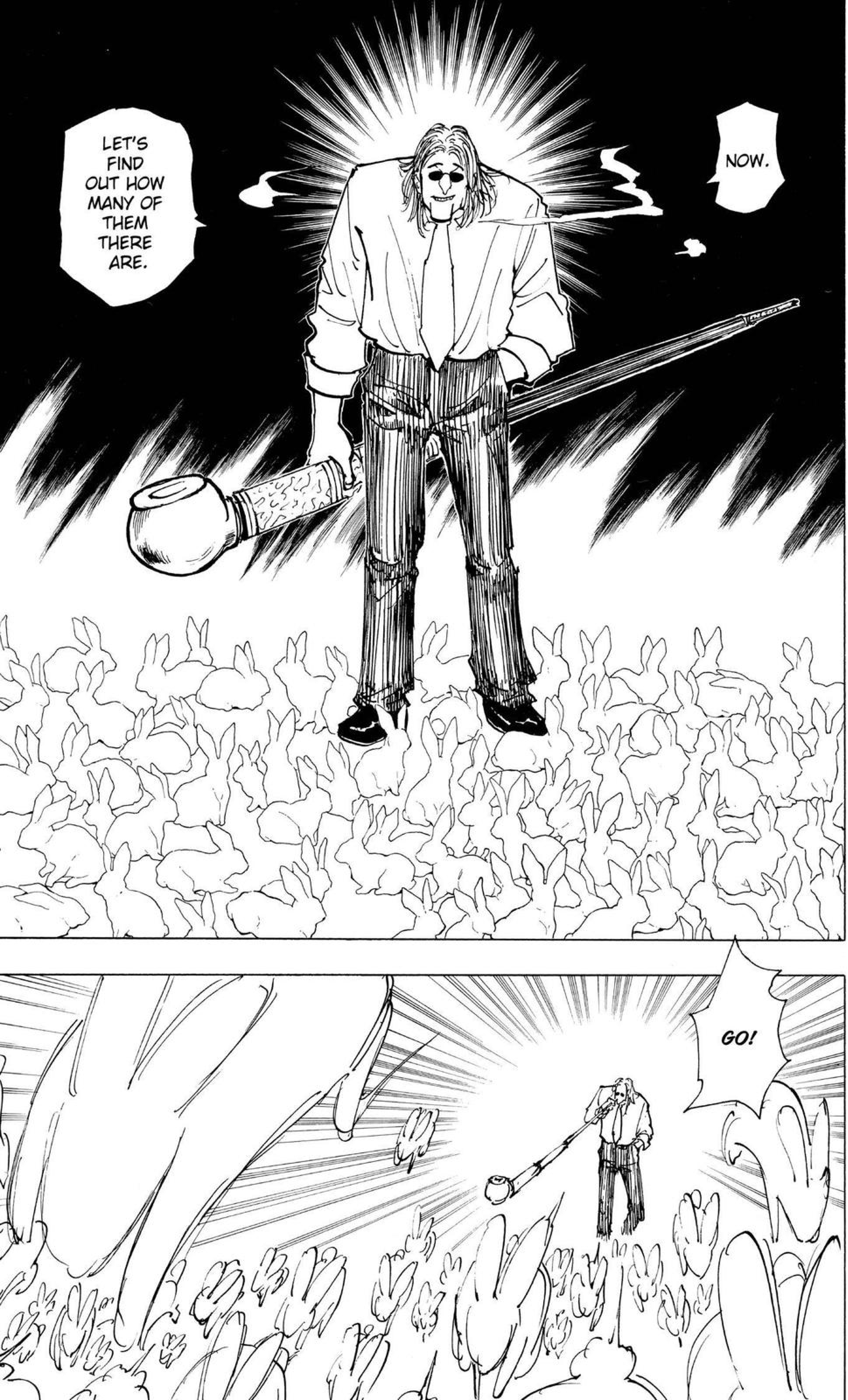

STRONGER THAN YOU, CHAIRMAN? SURELY YOU JEST.
IF THAT WERE TRUE, THERE'D BE NO HUNTER IN THE WORLD WHO COULD STAND A CHANCE.
HO.
IT'S BEEN MORE THAN HALF A CENTURY WHEN I WAS THE MOST POWERFUL NEN MASTER.
YOU TWO AND I ARE PROBABLY EVENLY MATCHED AT THIS POINT.
THEN YOU'RE PLENTY STRONG. YOU SHOULD BE MORE CONFIDENT.
SOB SOB
EVEN THOUGH I'M LESS THAN HALF MY PRIME? AGING SUCKS.
ALWAYS WITH A QUIP...
BUT YOU'LL STILL GIVE IT A GO, RIGHT?
I'D PREFER NOT TO. IT WOULD BE BEST IF WE DIDN'T HAVE TO FIGHT AT ALL.
OUR ONLY TARGET IS THE QUEEN.

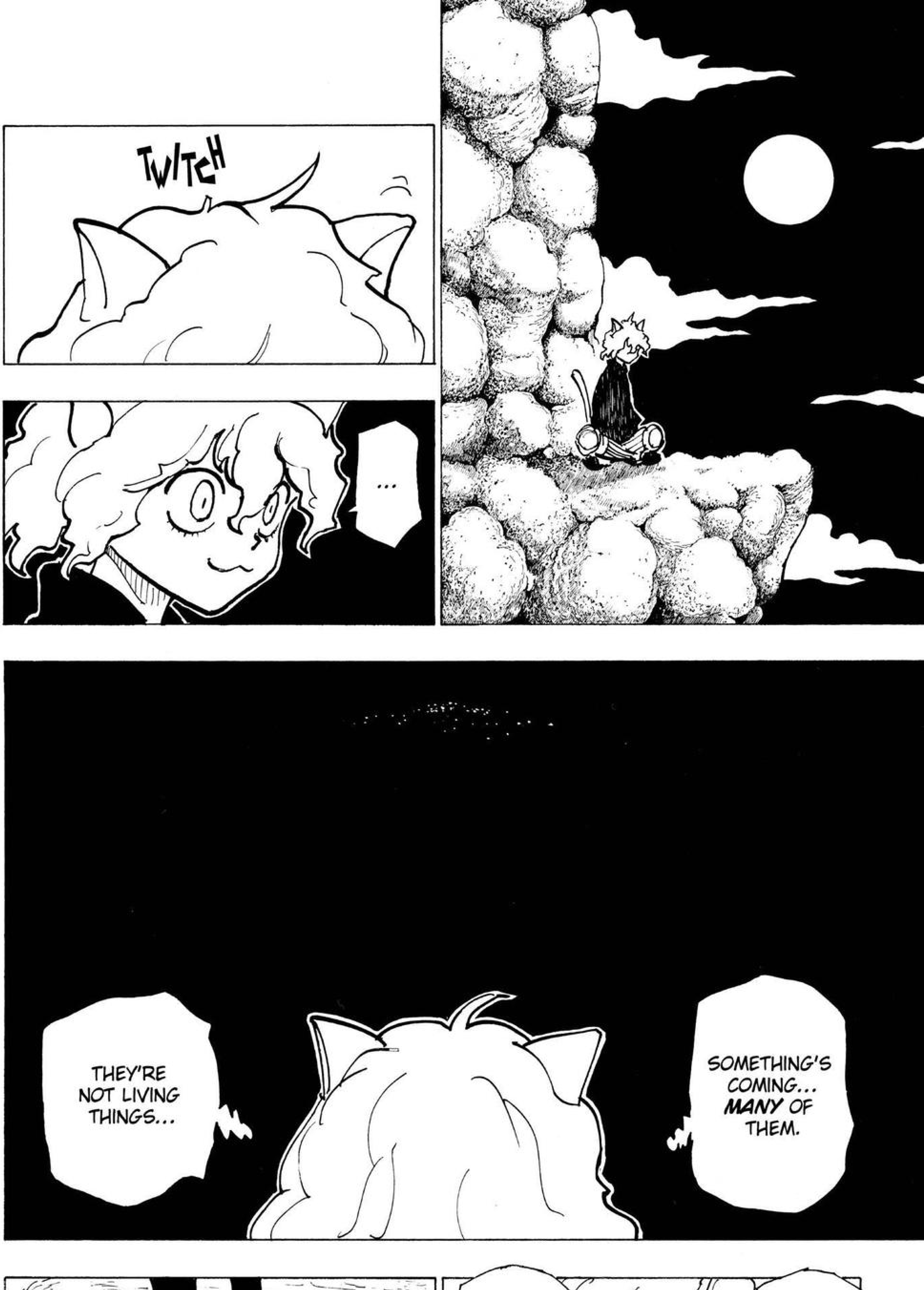

WELL, IT'LL BE DIFFICULT TO SLIP THROUGH HIS EN SURVEILLANCE.
NO WAY TO AVOID A CONFRONTATION.


THE PROBLEM IS HOW TO WIN.
I'M WILLING TO TAKE ANY SUGGESTIONS.
HOW YOU LOVE TO TEASE...
YOU ALREADY KNEW WHAT YOU WOULD DO WHEN YOU CHOSE THE TWO OF US.
VOOO
WE'LL TAKE THEM OUT...
...QUIETLY, ONE BY ONE.
VMM

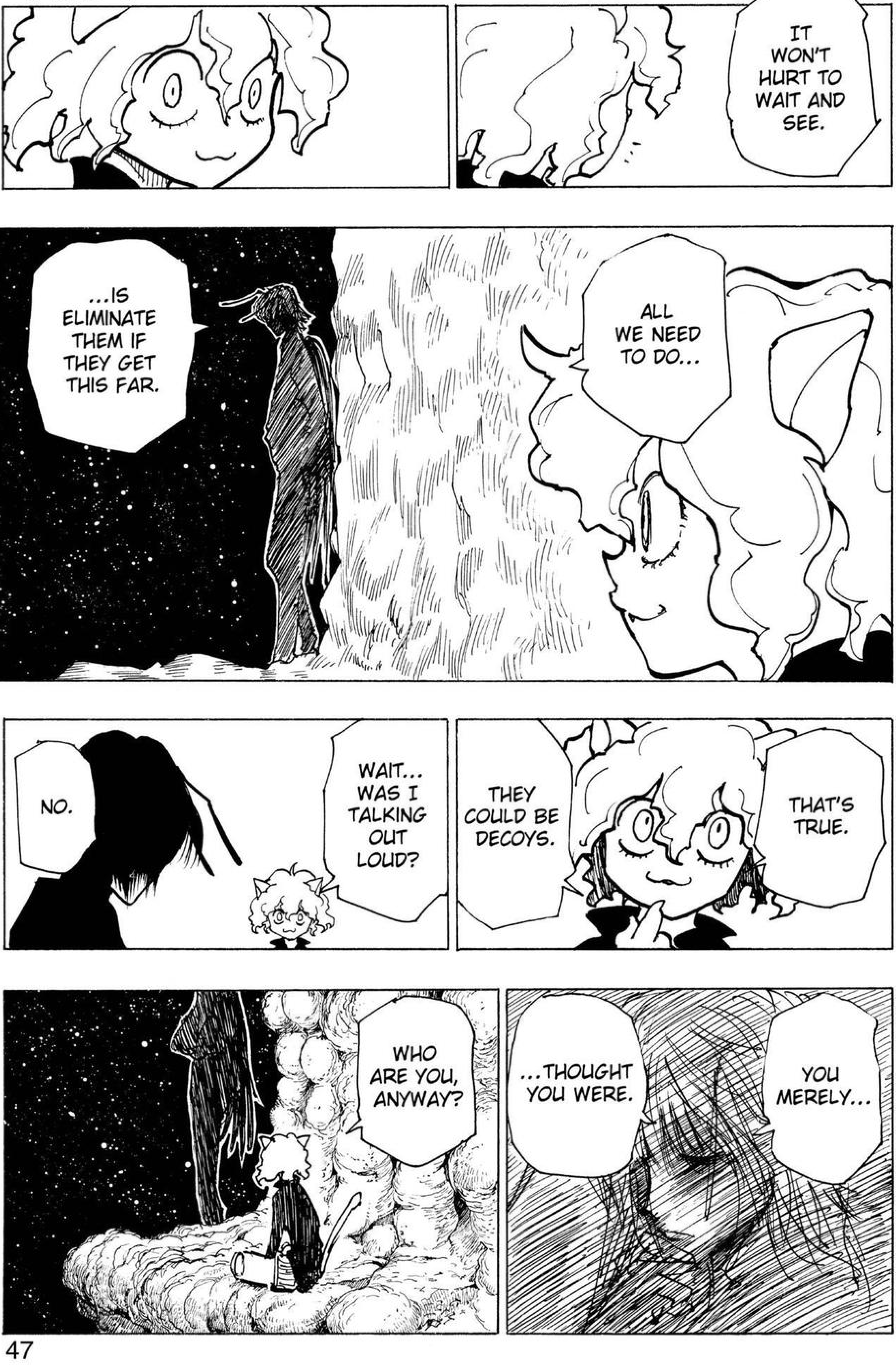

PLUP
VM...
SWSH
DOOOM

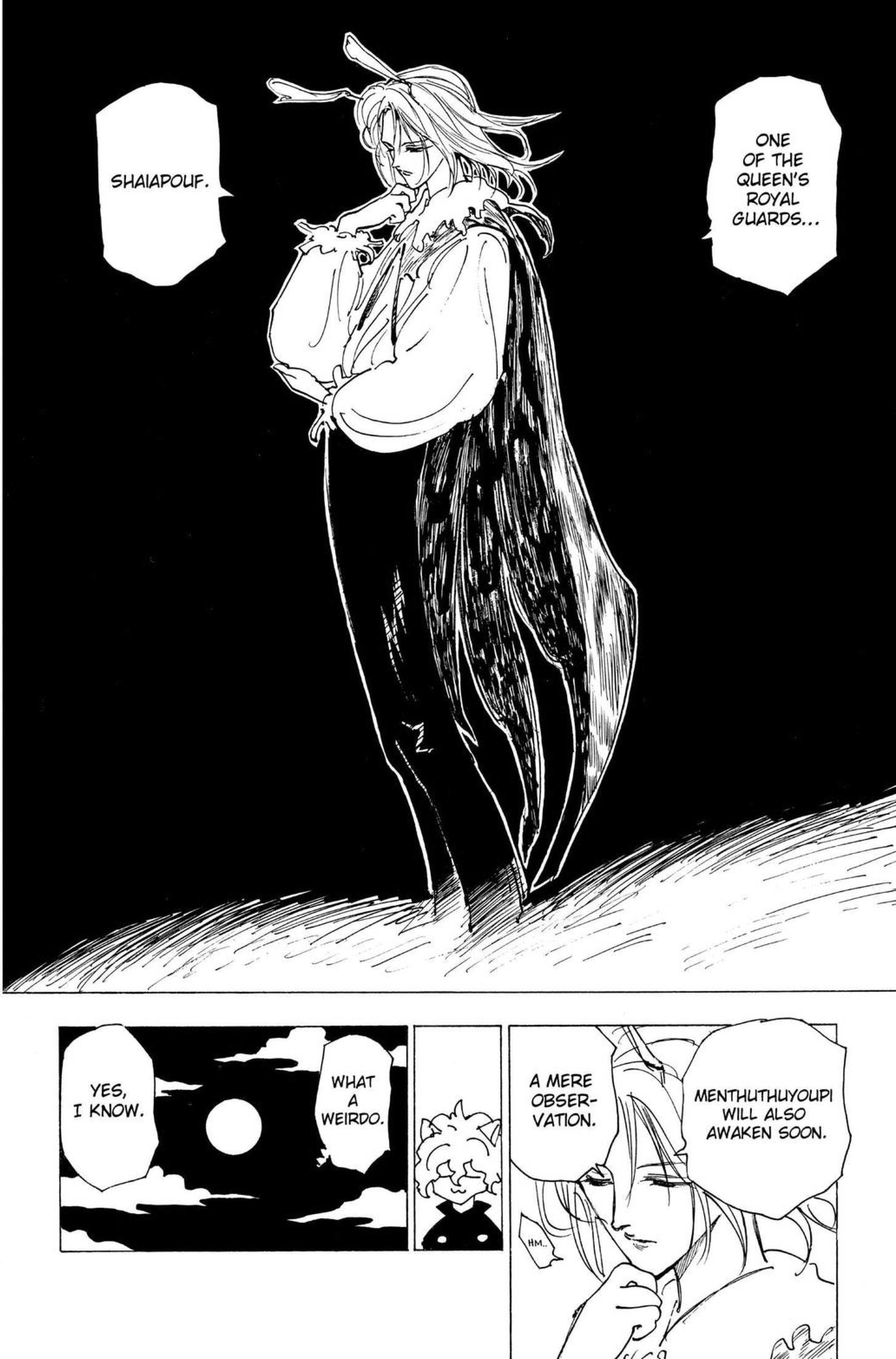

SWOO
POOF
POP
POP
POP
POOF
WELL, LET'S TAKE IT SLOWLY.
WE MIGHT AS WELL ENJOY IT WHILE WE'RE AT IT.


NOW.
LET'S FIND OUT HOW MANY OF THEM THERE ARE.
GO!

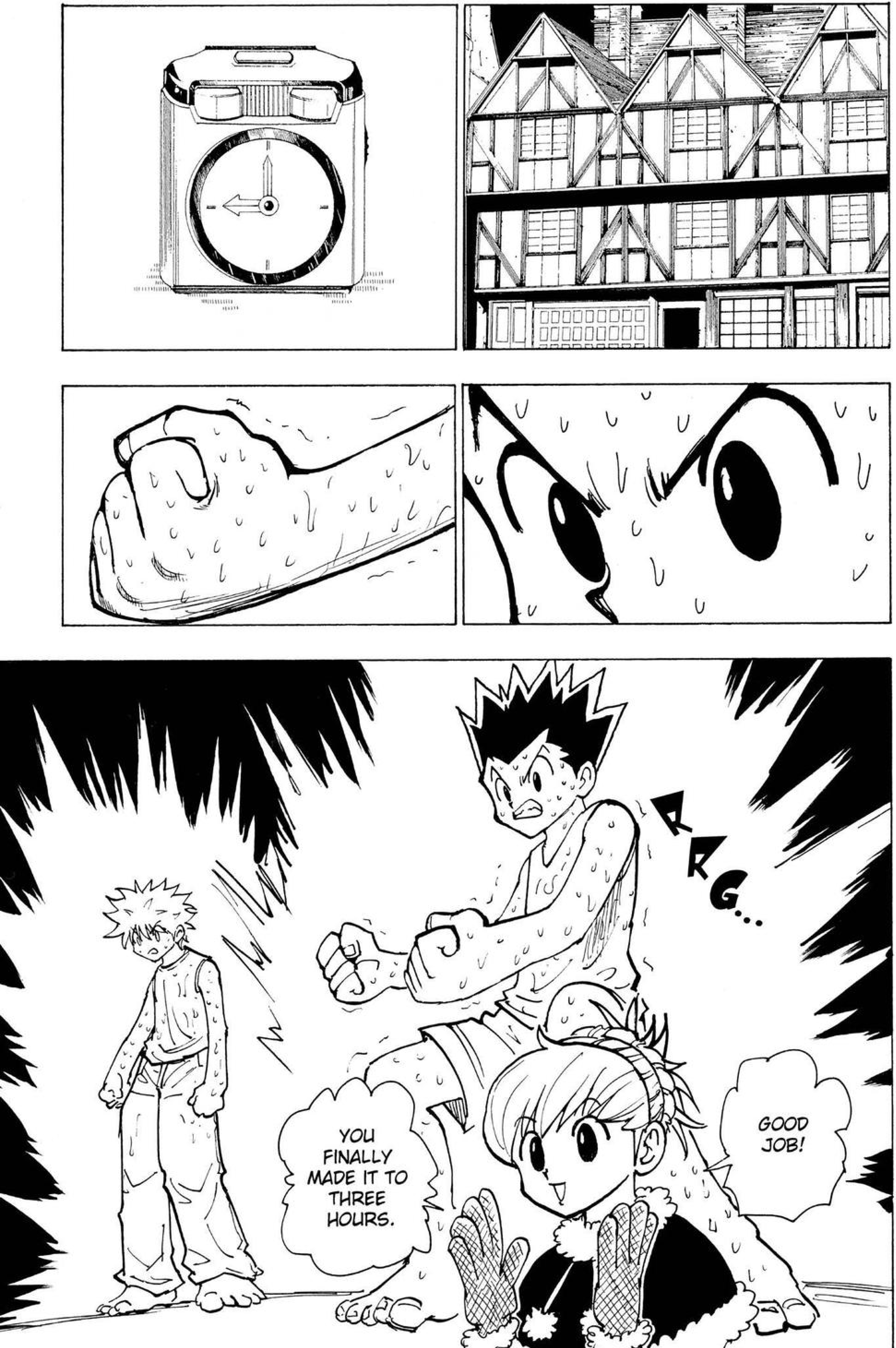

TWITCH
...
SOMETHING'S COMING... *MANY* OF THEM.
THEY'RE NOT LIVING THINGS...
IS IT AN ENEMY ABILITY?
HM, WHAT TO DO?

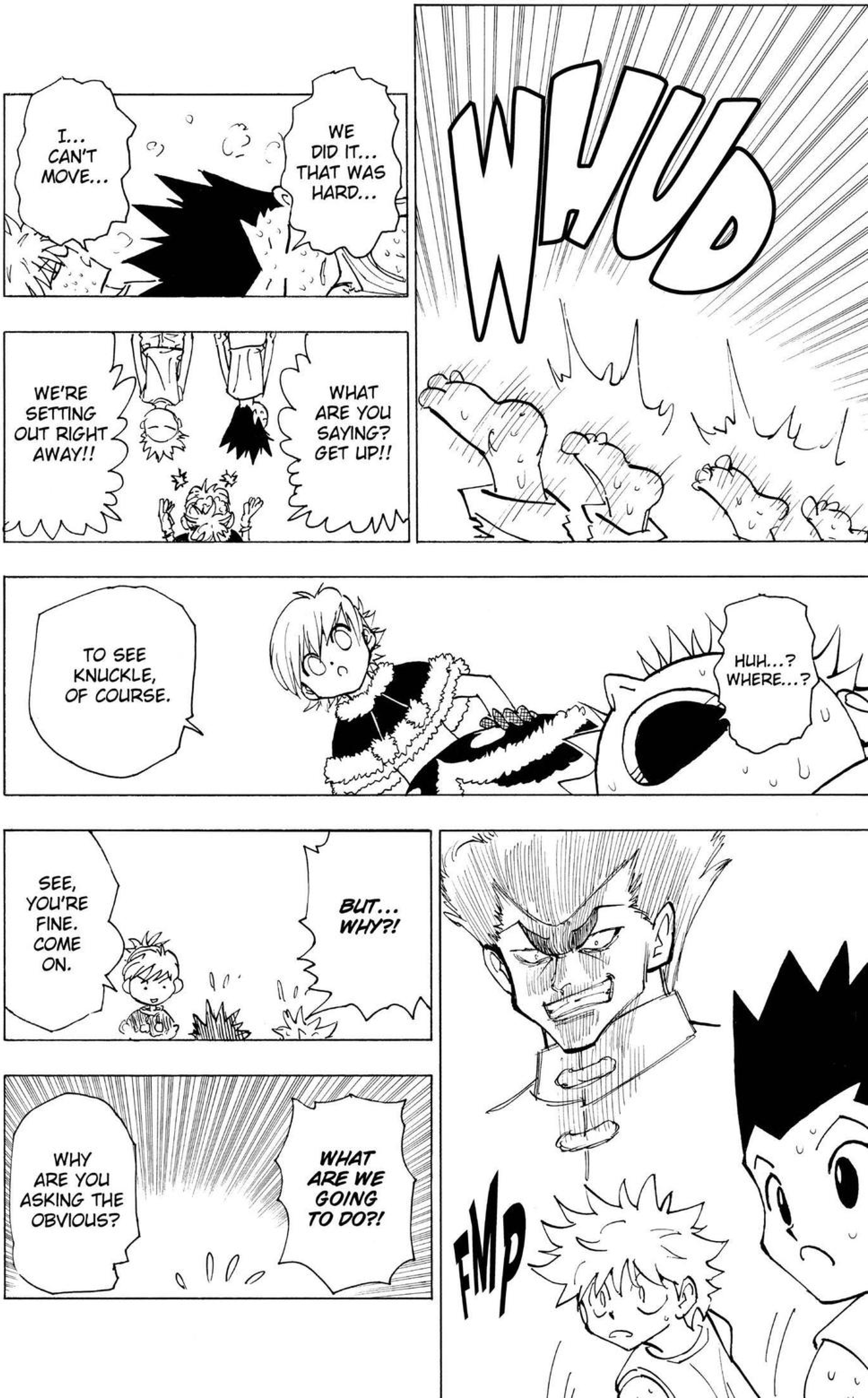
READ THIS WAY

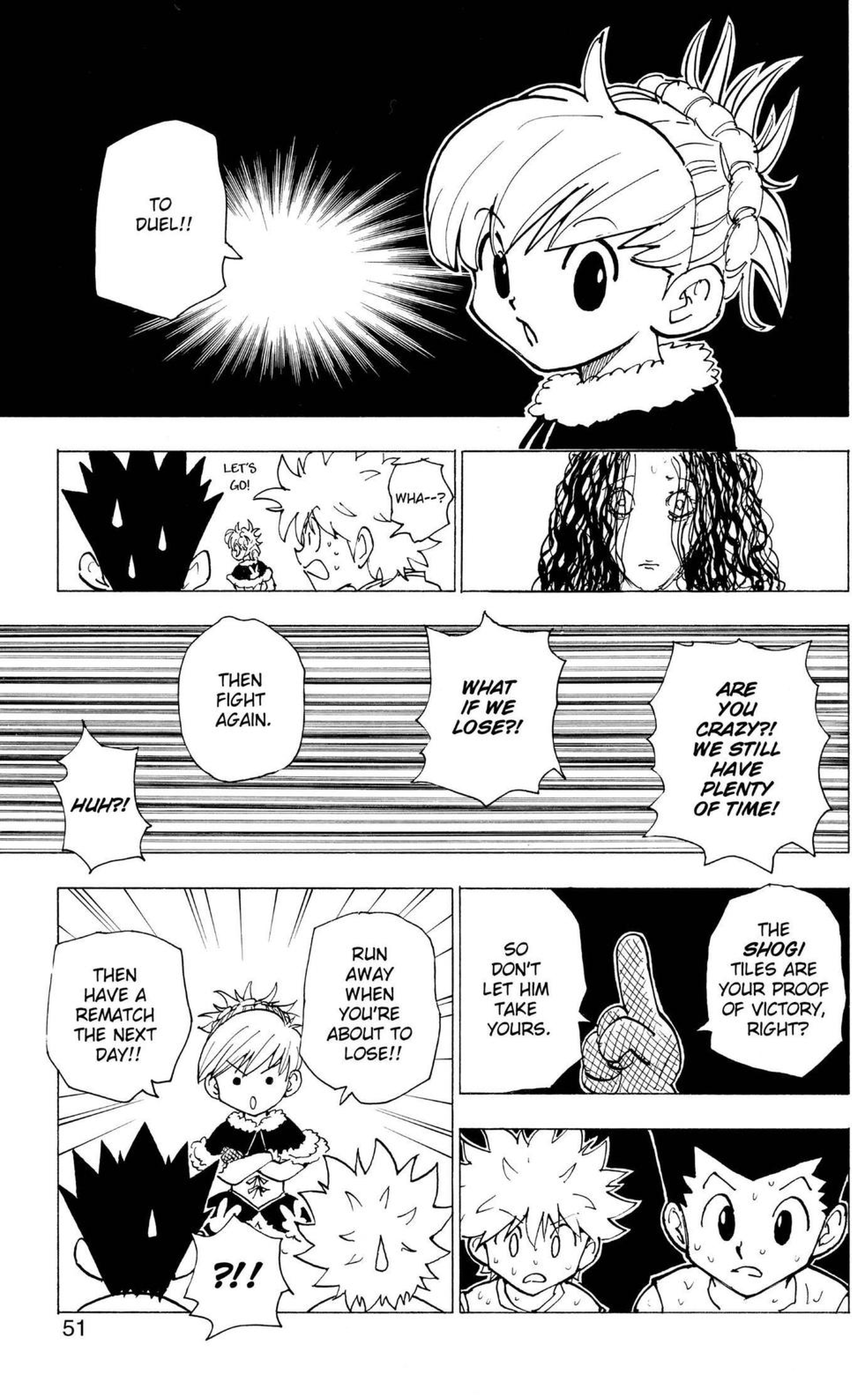

IT WON'T HURT TO WAIT AND SEE.
ALL WE NEED TO DO...
...IS ELIMINATE THEM IF THEY GET THIS FAR.
THAT'S TRUE.
THEY COULD BE DECOYS.
WAIT... WAS I TALKING OUT LOUD?
NO.
YOU MERELY...
...THOUGHT YOU WERE.
WHO ARE YOU, ANYWAY?

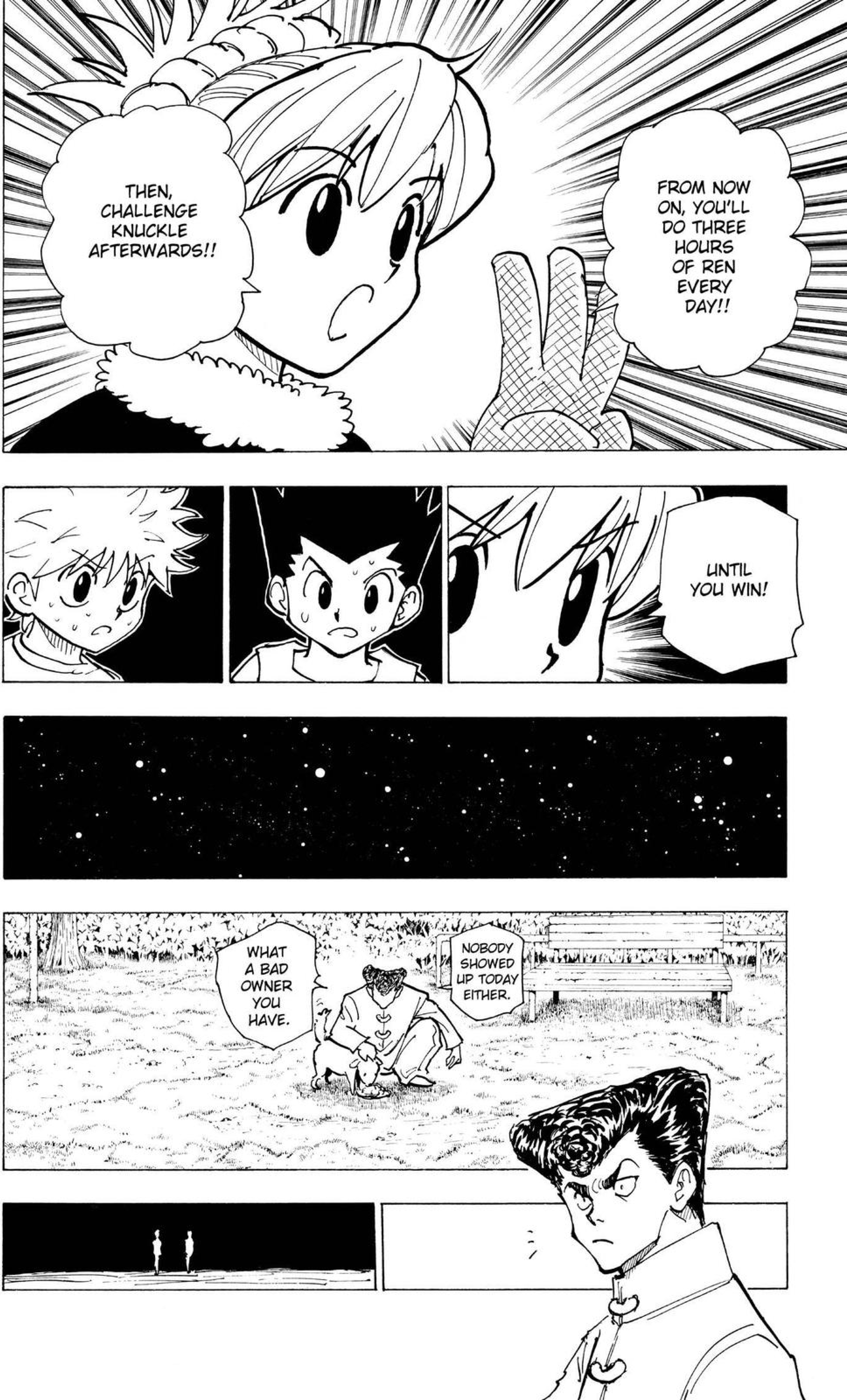

ONE OF THE QUEEN'S ROYAL GUARDS...
SHAIAPOUF.
MENTHUTHUYOUPI WILL ALSO AWAKEN SOON.
A MERE OBSERVATION.
HM..
WHAT A WEIRDO.
YES, I KNOW.

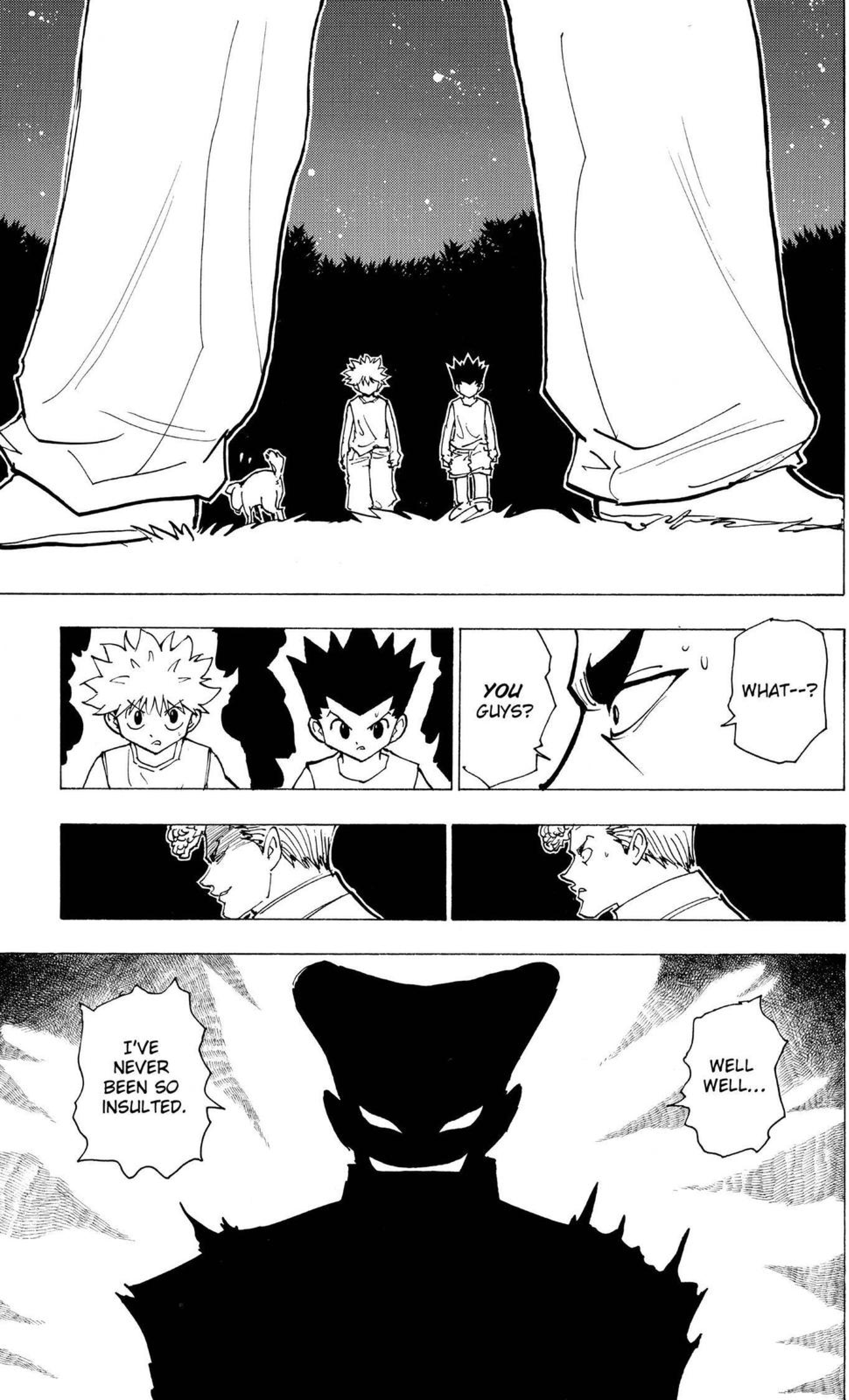
READ THIS WAY

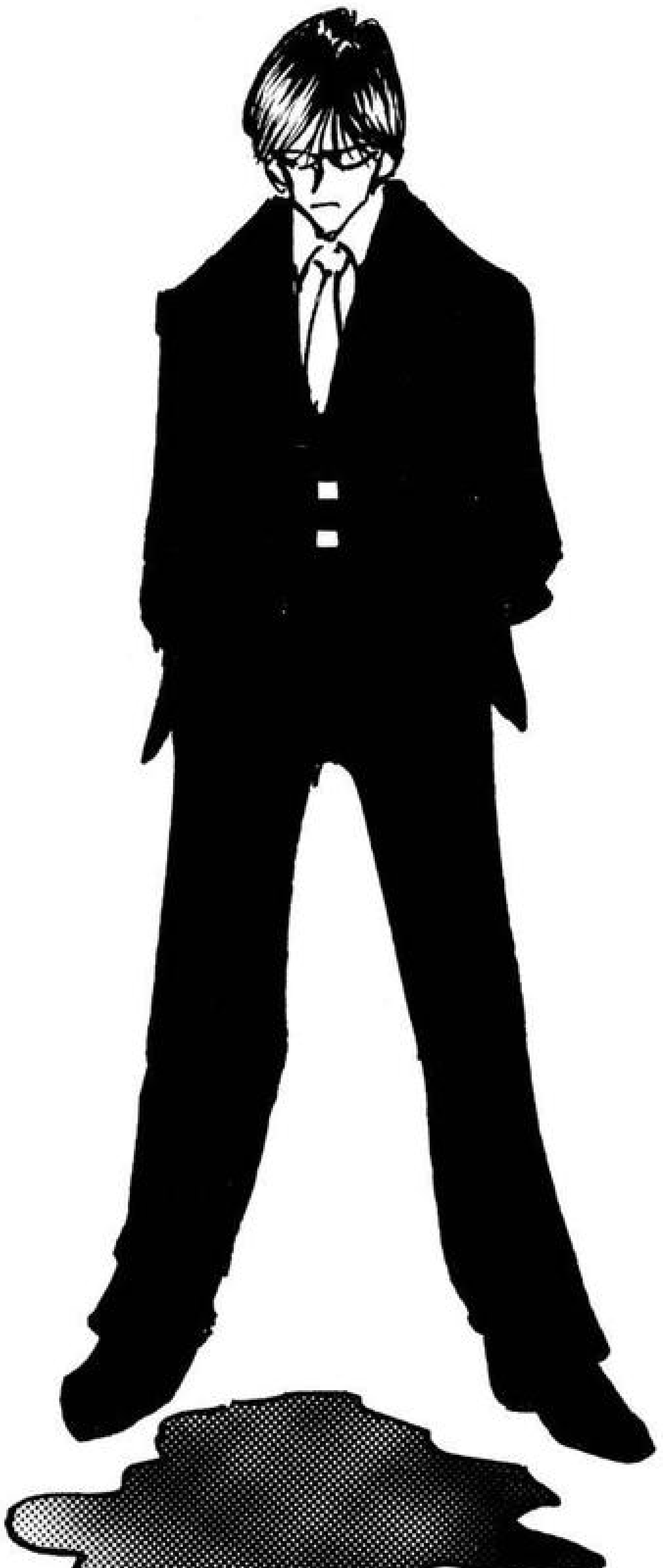

RRG...
GOOD JOB!
YOU FINALLY MADE IT TO THREE HOURS.

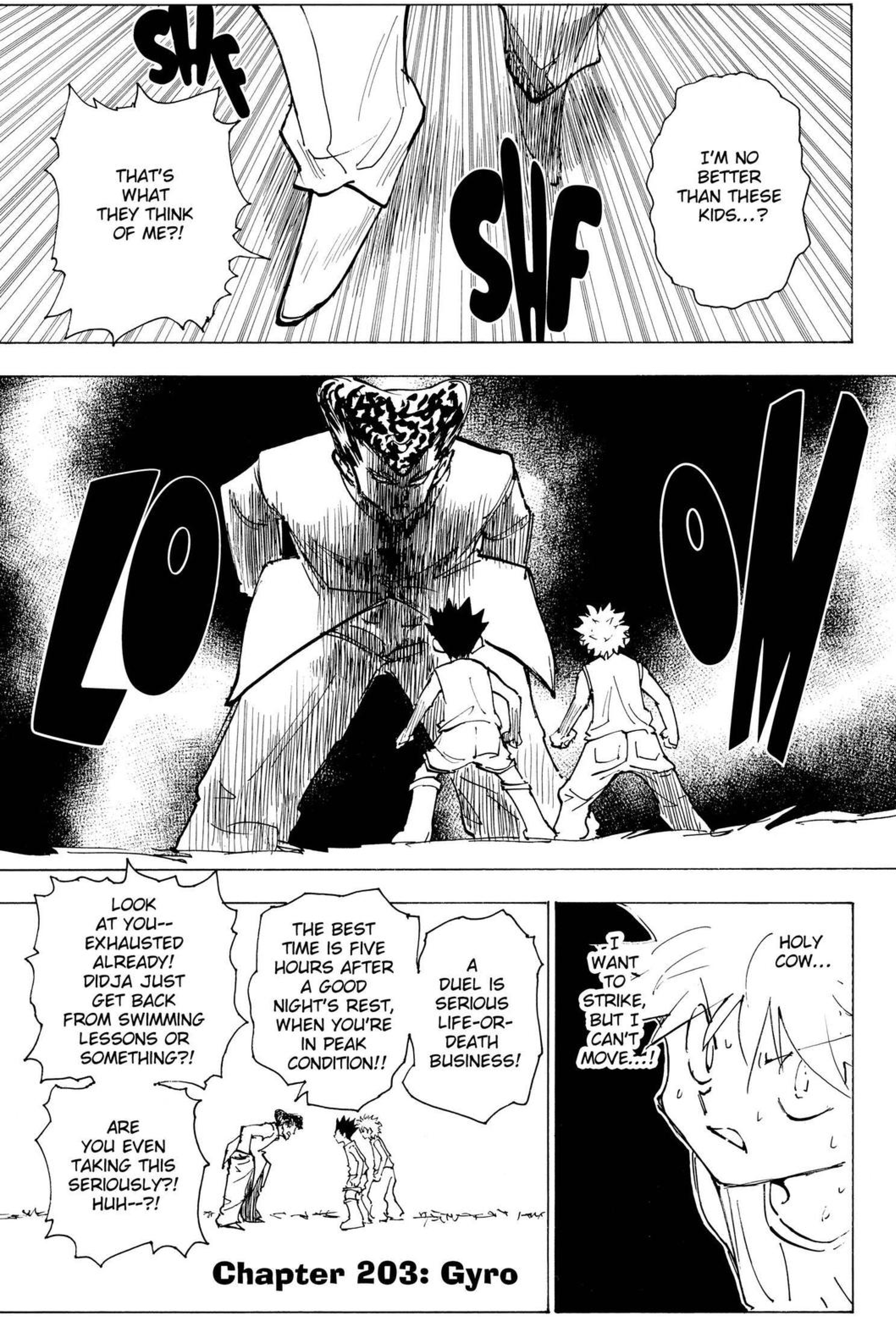

WHUD
WE DID IT… THAT WAS HARD…
I… CAN'T MOVE…
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? GET UP!!
WE'RE SETTING OUT RIGHT AWAY!!
HUH…? WHERE…?
TO SEE KNUCKLE, OF COURSE.
FMP
BUT… WHY?!
SEE, YOU'RE FINE. COME ON.
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?!
WHY ARE YOU ASKING THE OBVIOUS?


TO DUEL!!
WHA--?
LET'S GO!
ARE YOU CRAZY?! WE STILL HAVE PLENTY OF TIME!
WHAT IF WE LOSE?!
THEN FIGHT AGAIN.
HUH?!
THE *SHOGI* TILES ARE YOUR PROOF OF VICTORY, RIGHT?
SO DON'T LET HIM TAKE YOURS.
RUN AWAY WHEN YOU'RE ABOUT TO LOSE!!
THEN HAVE A REMATCH THE NEXT DAY!!
?!!


FROM NOW ON, YOU'LL DO THREE HOURS OF REN EVERY DAY!!
THEN, CHALLENGE KNUCKLE AFTERWARDS!!
UNTIL YOU WIN!
NOBODY SHOWED UP TODAY EITHER.
WHAT A BAD OWNER YOU HAVE.

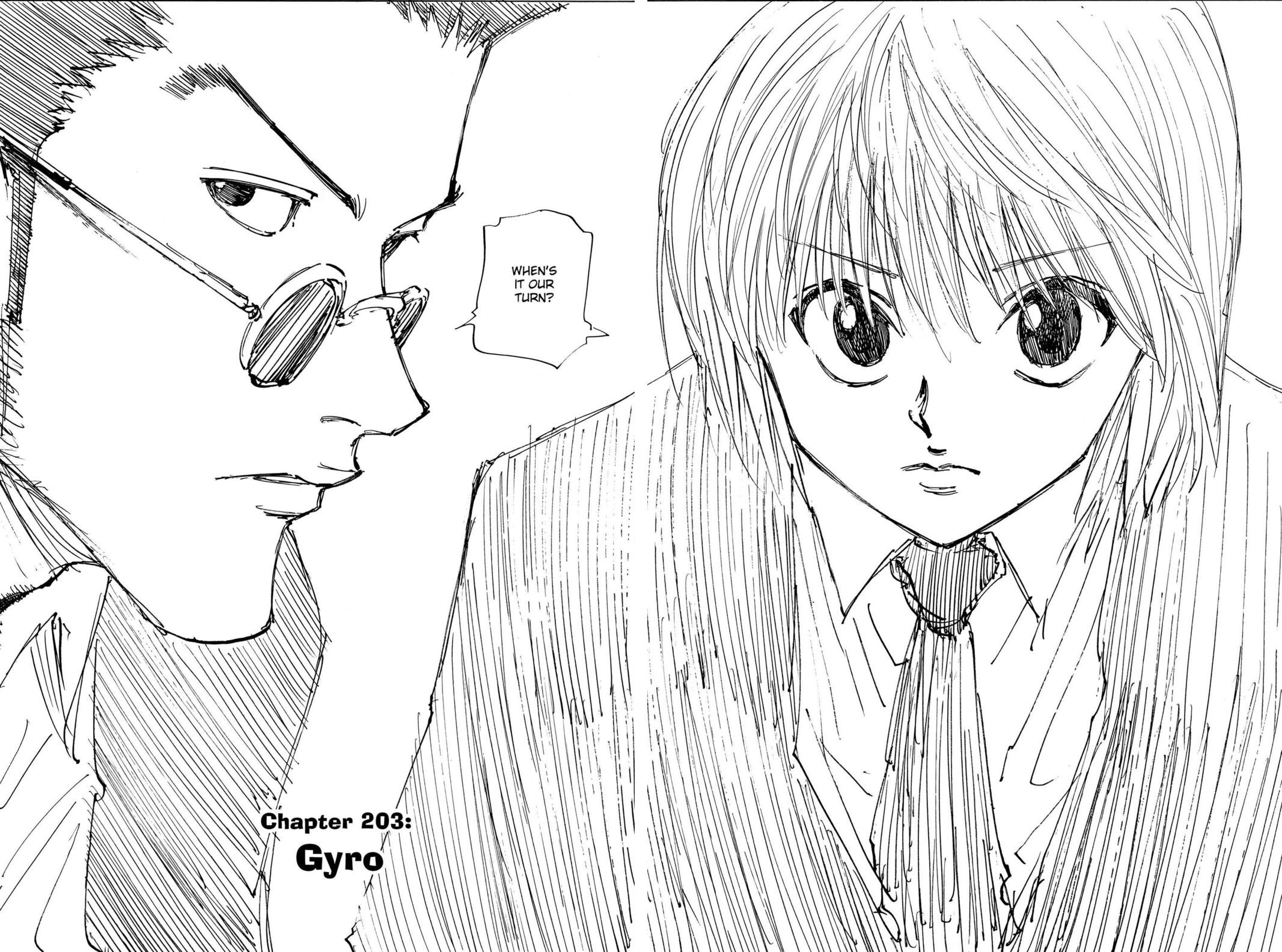

WHAT--?
YOU GUYS?
WELL WELL...
I'VE NEVER BEEN SO INSULTED.

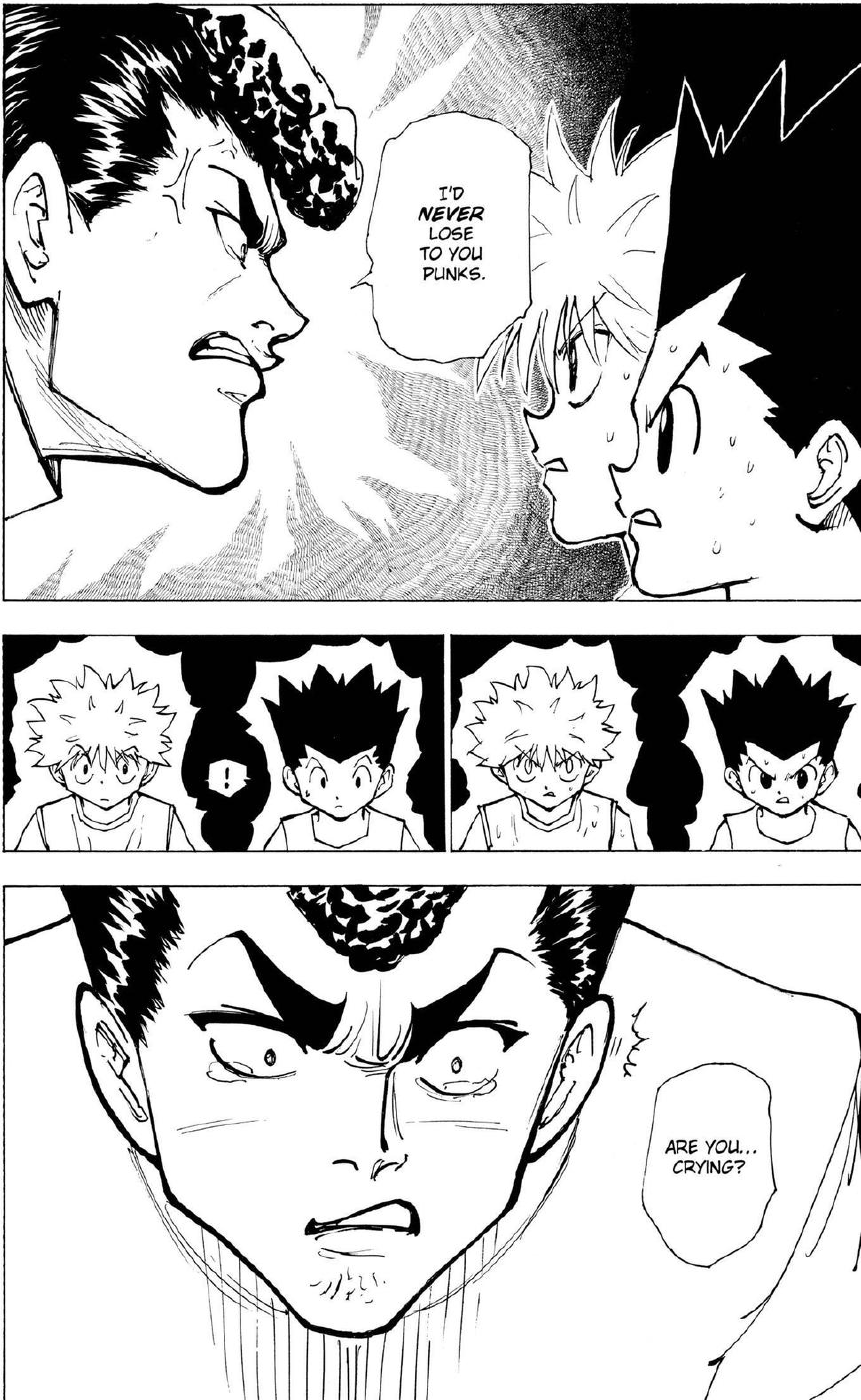



I'M NO BETTER THAN THESE KIDS...?
SHF
SHF
THAT'S WHAT THEY THINK OF ME?!
LOOM
HOLY COW...
I WANT TO STRIKE, BUT I CAN'T MOVE...!
A DUEL IS SERIOUS LIFE-OR-DEATH BUSINESS!
THE BEST TIME IS FIVE HOURS AFTER A GOOD NIGHT'S REST, WHEN YOU'RE IN PEAK CONDITION!!
LOOK AT YOU-- EXHAUSTED ALREADY! DIDJA JUST GET BACK FROM SWIMMING LESSONS OR SOMETHING?!
ARE YOU EVEN TAKING THIS SERIOUSLY?! HUH--?!

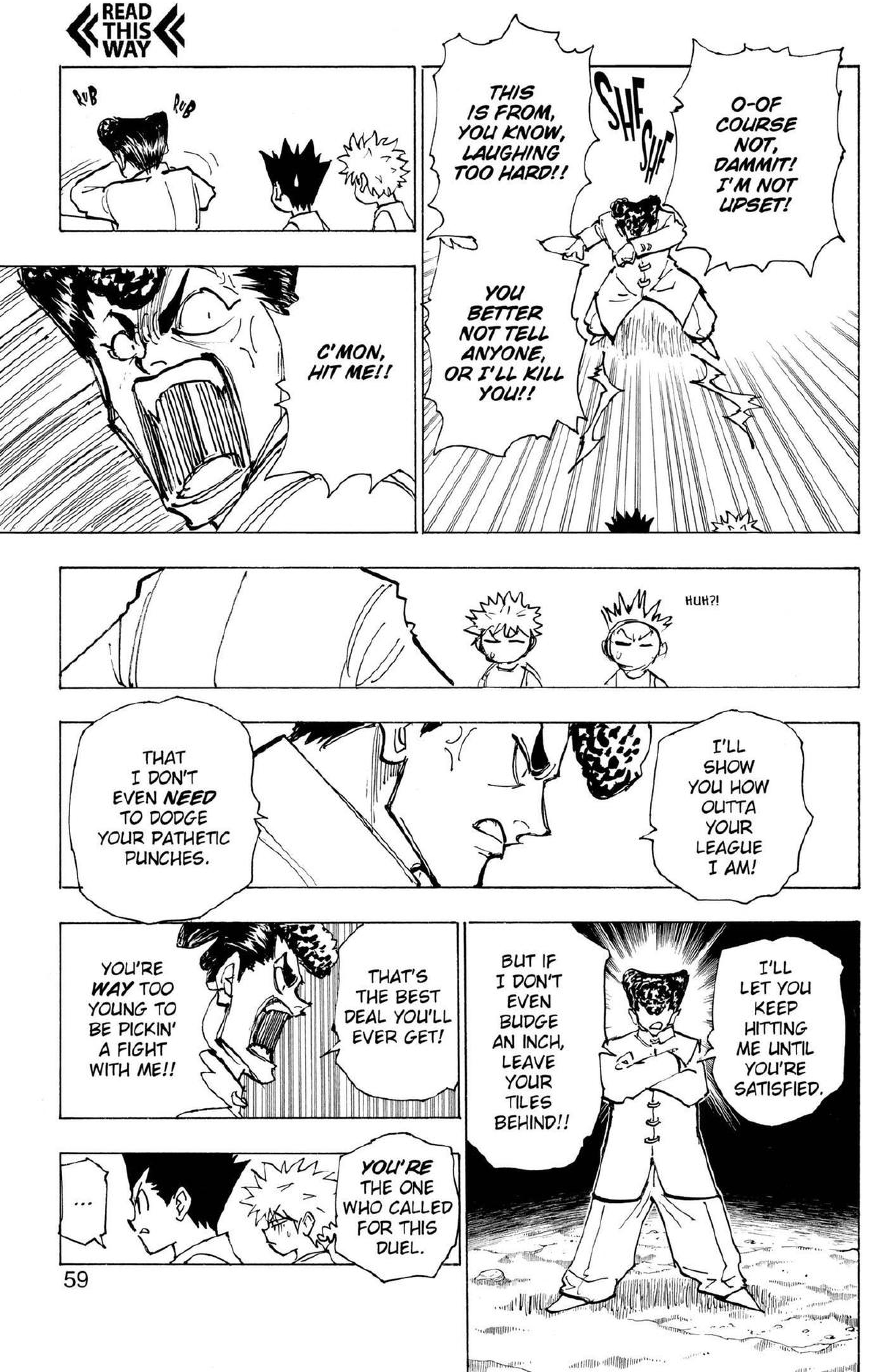
Chapter 203: Gyro

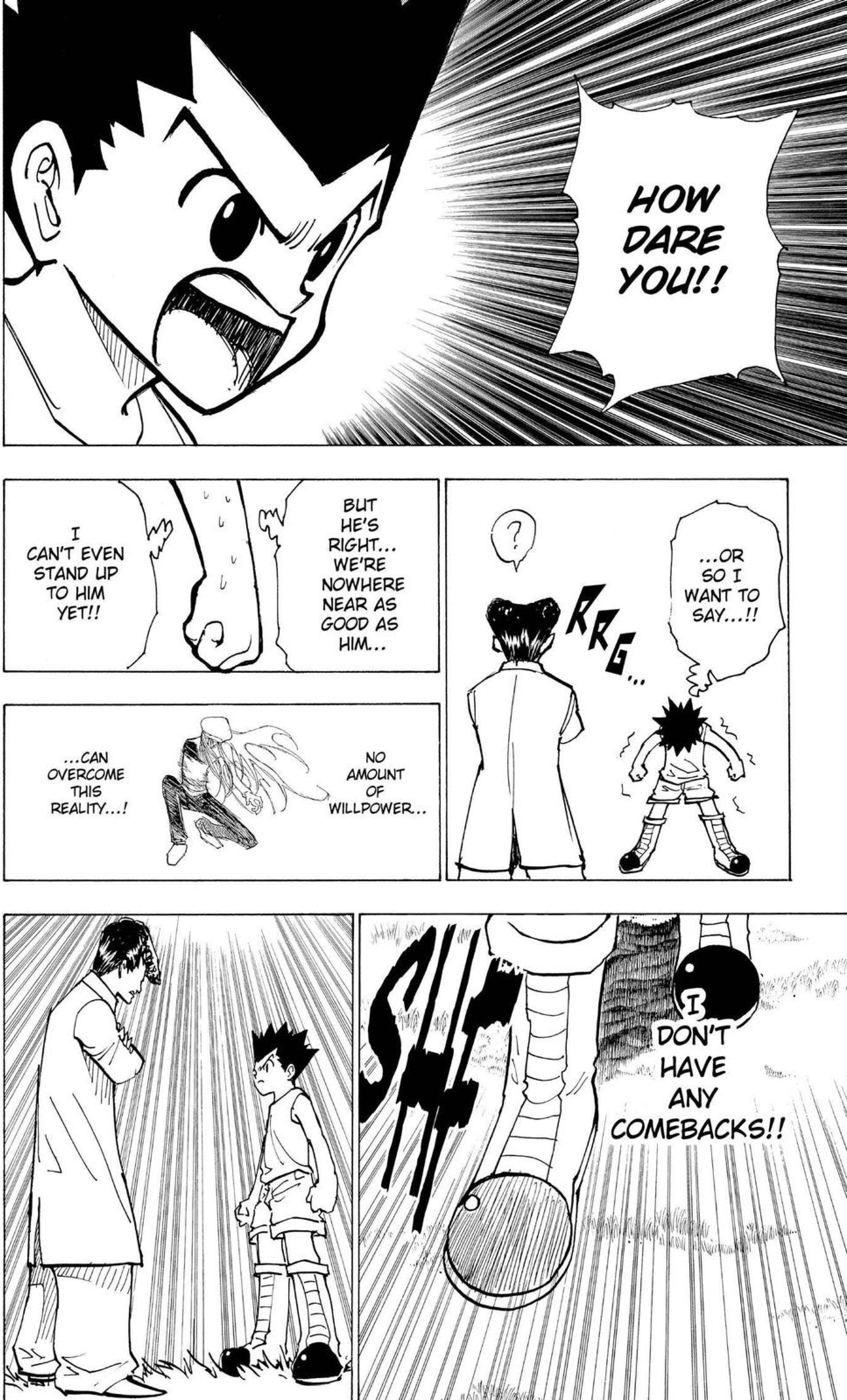
Chapter 203:
Gyro

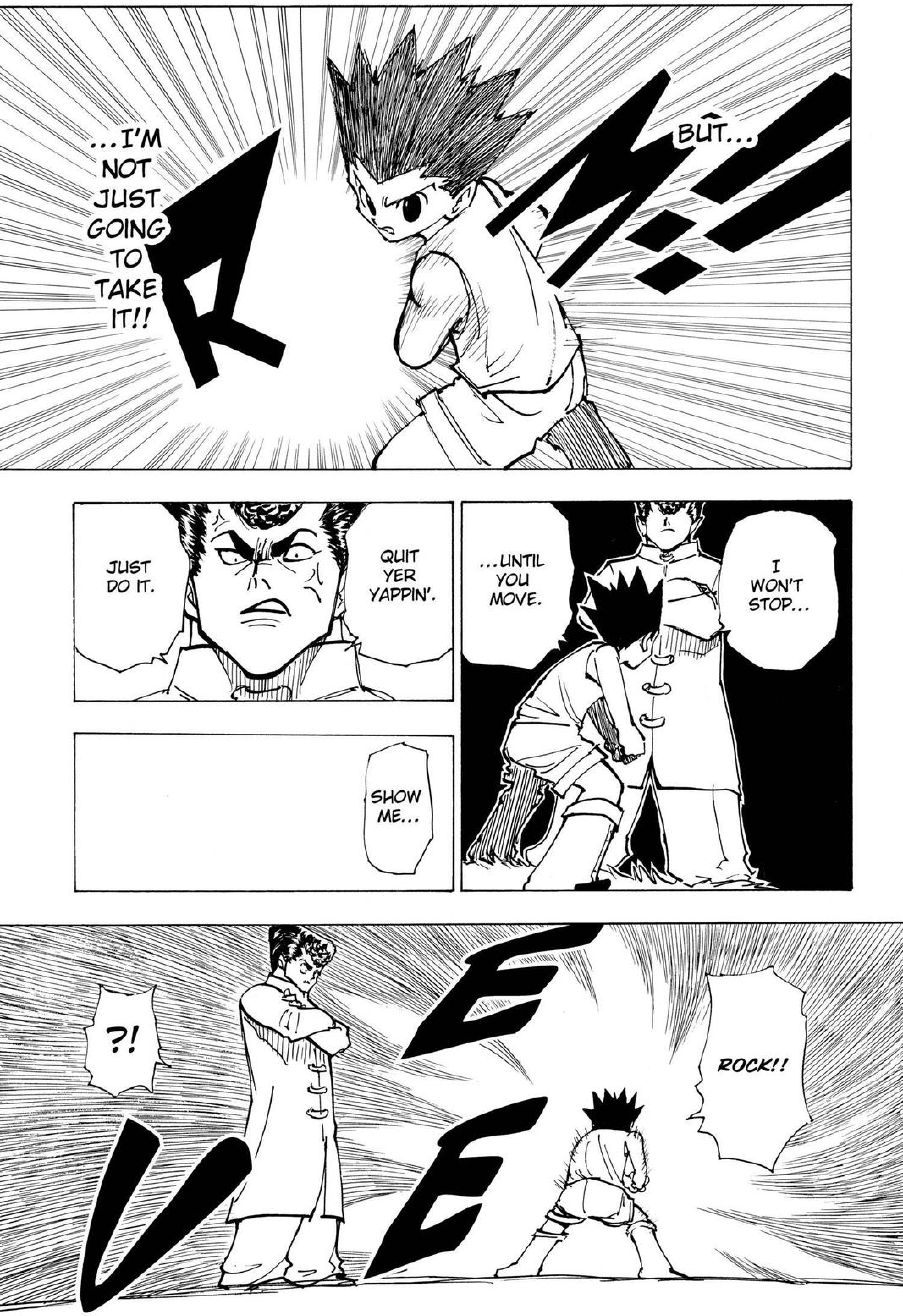

WHEN'S IT OUR TURN?

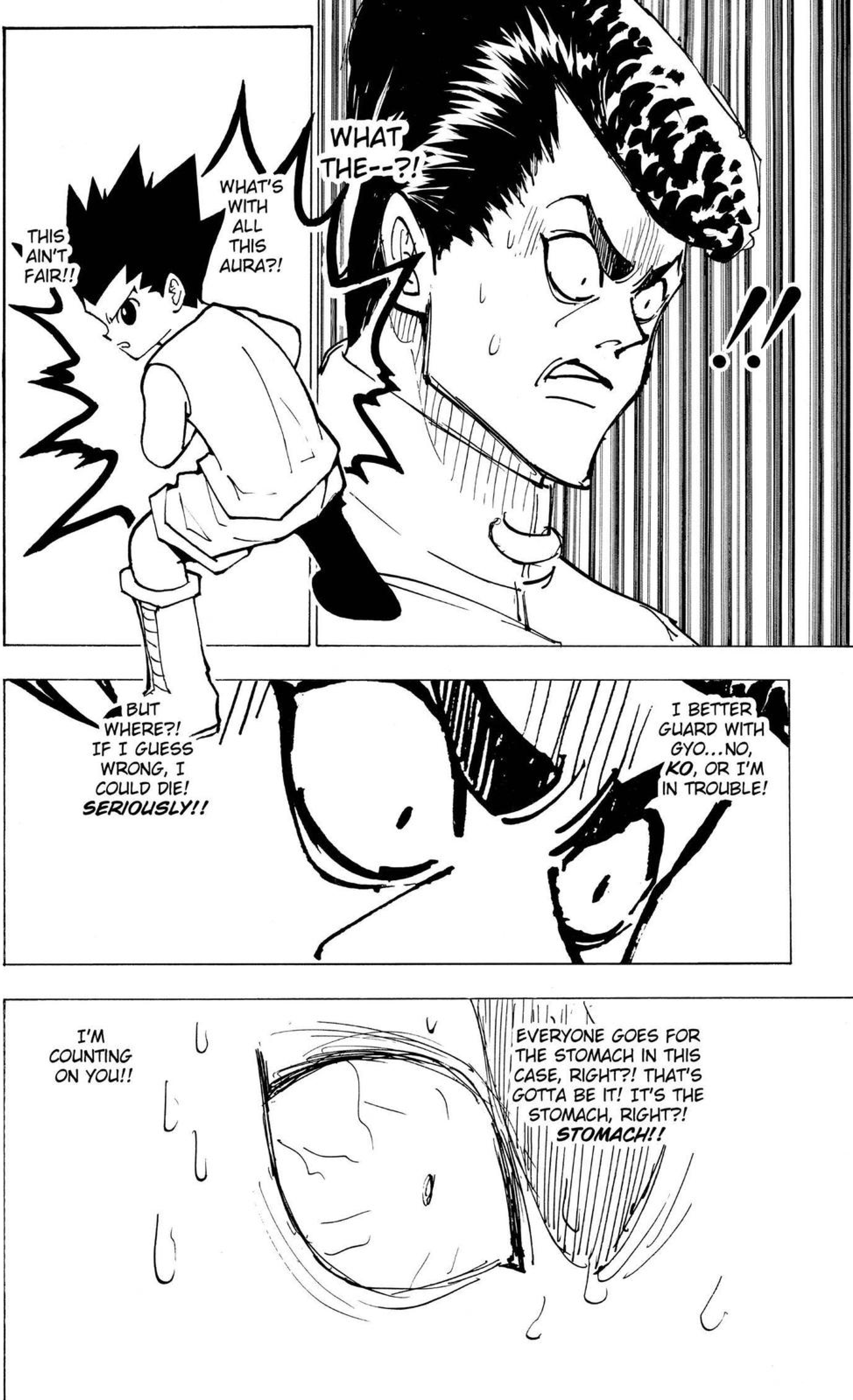

I'D **NEVER** LOSE TO YOU PUNKS.
!
ARE YOU... CRYING?

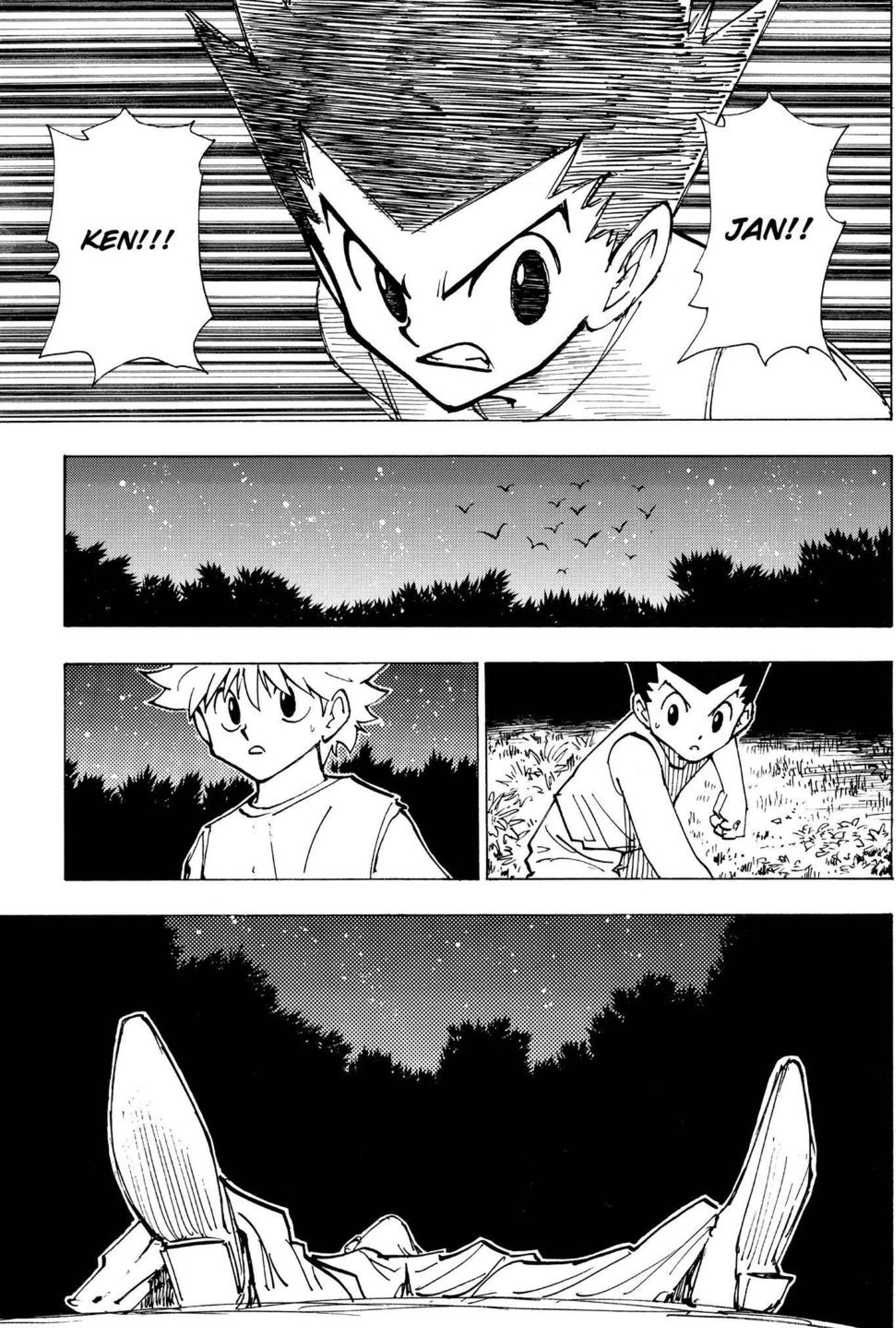
READ THIS WAY

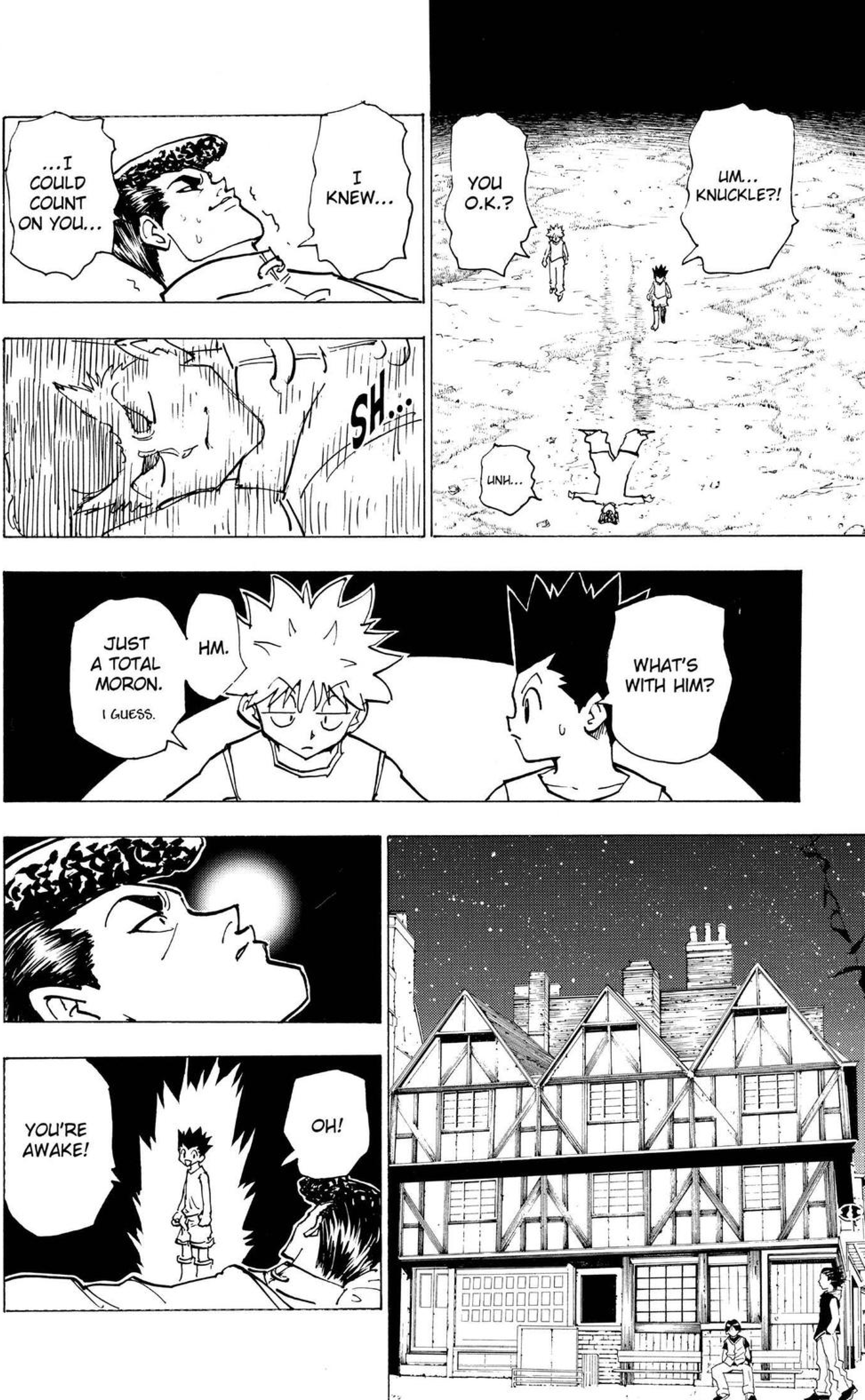

O-OF COURSE NOT, DAMMIT! I'M NOT UPSET!
SHF SHF
THIS IS FROM, YOU KNOW, LAUGHING TOO HARD!!
YOU BETTER NOT TELL ANYONE, OR I'LL KILL YOU!!
RUB RUB
C'MON, HIT ME!!
HUH?!
I'LL SHOW YOU HOW OUTTA YOUR LEAGUE I AM!
THAT I DON'T EVEN NEED TO DODGE YOUR PATHETIC PUNCHES.
I'LL LET YOU KEEP HITTING ME UNTIL YOU'RE SATISFIED.
BUT IF I DON'T EVEN BUDGE AN INCH, LEAVE YOUR TILES BEHIND!!
THAT'S THE BEST DEAL YOU'LL EVER GET!
YOU'RE WAY TOO YOUNG TO BE PICKIN' A FIGHT WITH ME!!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO CALLED FOR THIS DUEL.
...


HOW DARE YOU!!
?
...OR SO I WANT TO SAY...!!
RRG...
BUT HE'S RIGHT... WE'RE NOWHERE NEAR AS GOOD AS HIM...
I CAN'T EVEN STAND UP TO HIM YET!!
NO AMOUNT OF WILLPOWER..
...CAN OVERCOME THIS REALITY...!
SHF
I DON'T HAVE ANY COMEBACKS!!

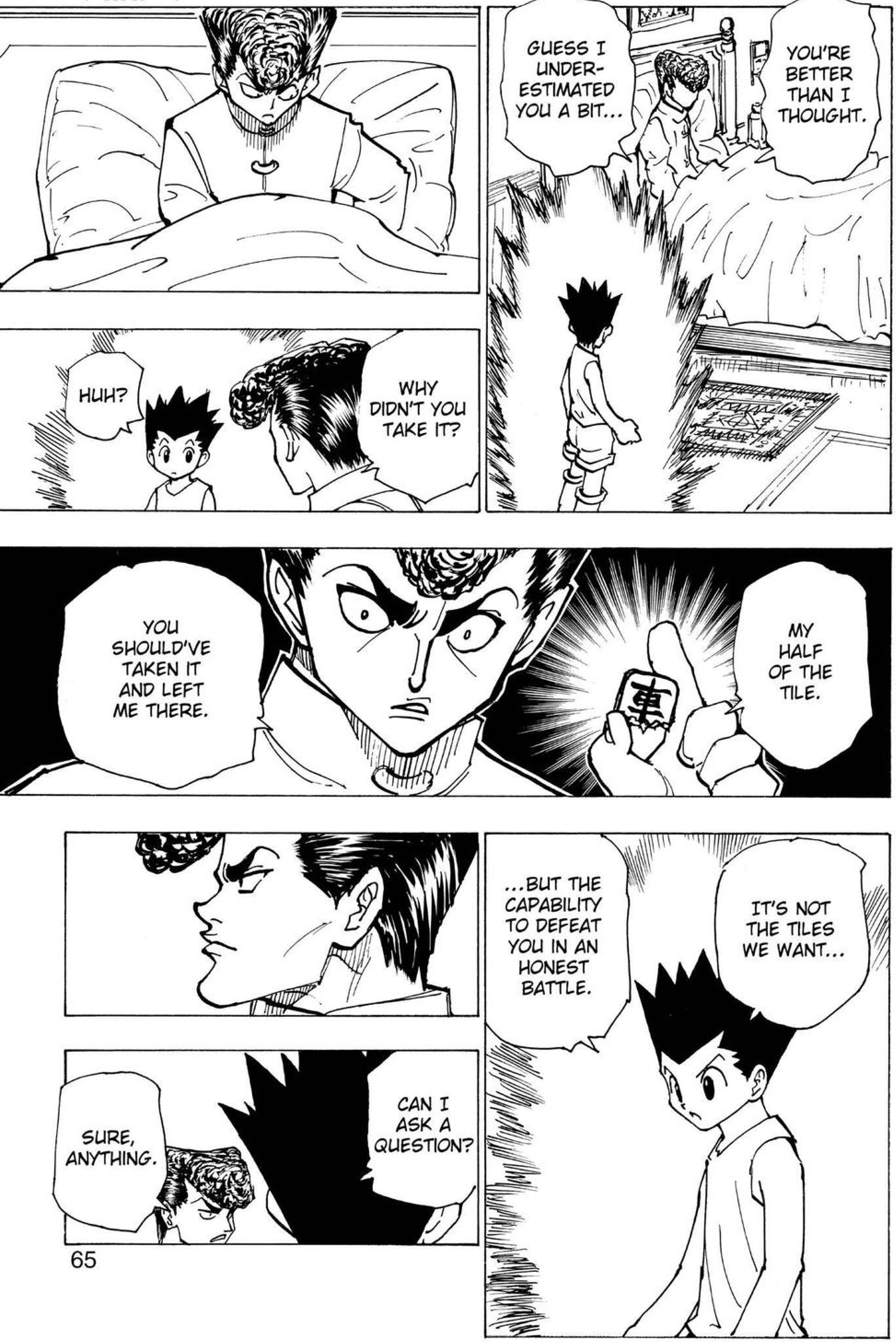

BUT...
...I'M NOT JUST GOING TO TAKE IT!!
I WON'T STOP...
...UNTIL YOU MOVE.
QUIT YER YAPPIN'.
JUST DO IT.
SHOW ME...
ROCK!!
?!

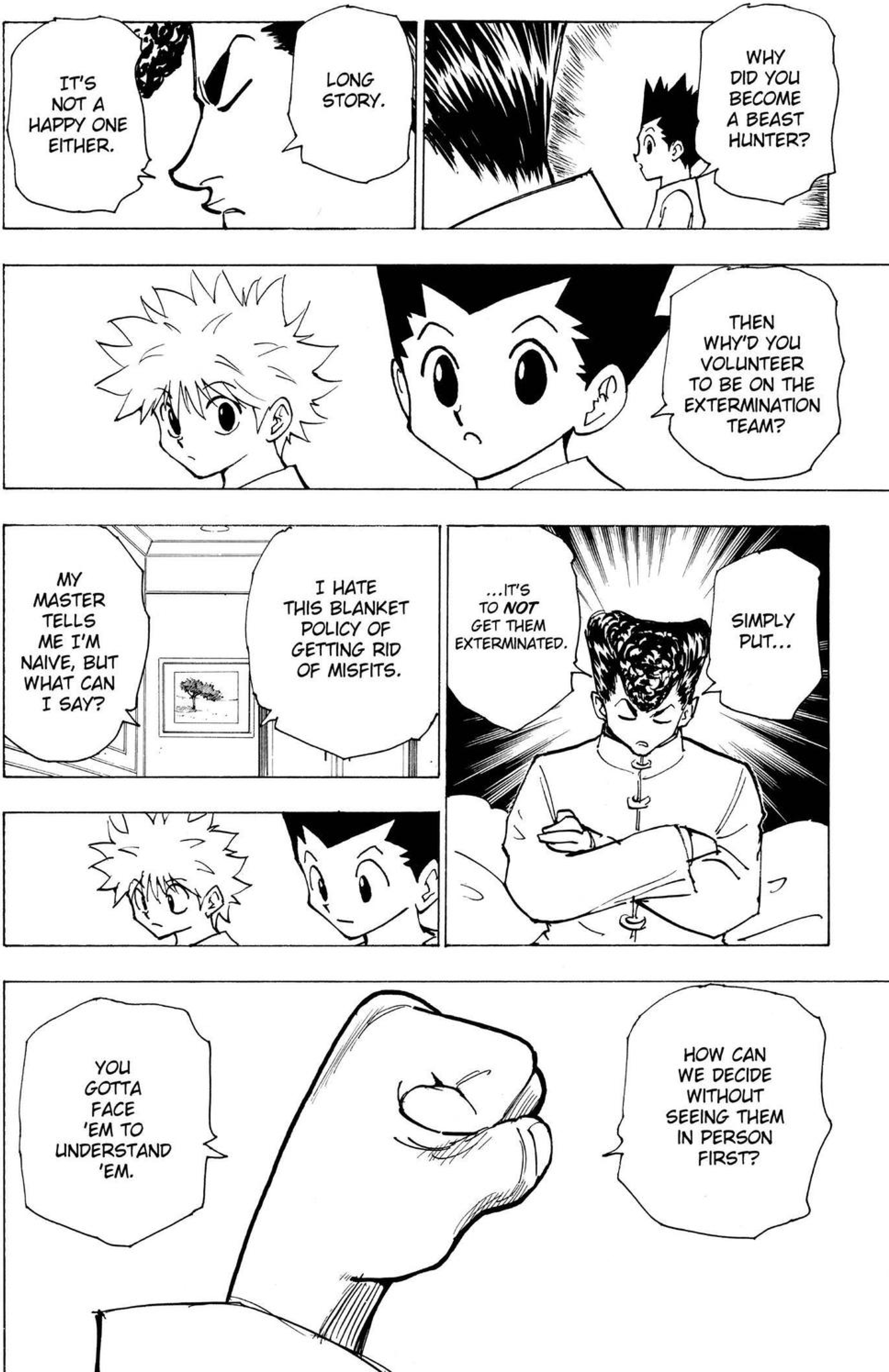

WHAT THE--?!
!!
WHAT'S WITH ALL THIS AURA?!
THIS AIN'T FAIR!!
I BETTER GUARD WITH GYO...NO, **KO**, OR I'M IN TROUBLE!
BUT WHERE?! IF I GUESS WRONG, I COULD DIE! **SERIOUSLY!!**
EVERYONE GOES FOR THE STOMACH IN THIS CASE, RIGHT?! THAT'S GOTTA BE IT! IT'S THE STOMACH, RIGHT?! **STOMACH!!**
I'M COUNTING ON YOU!!

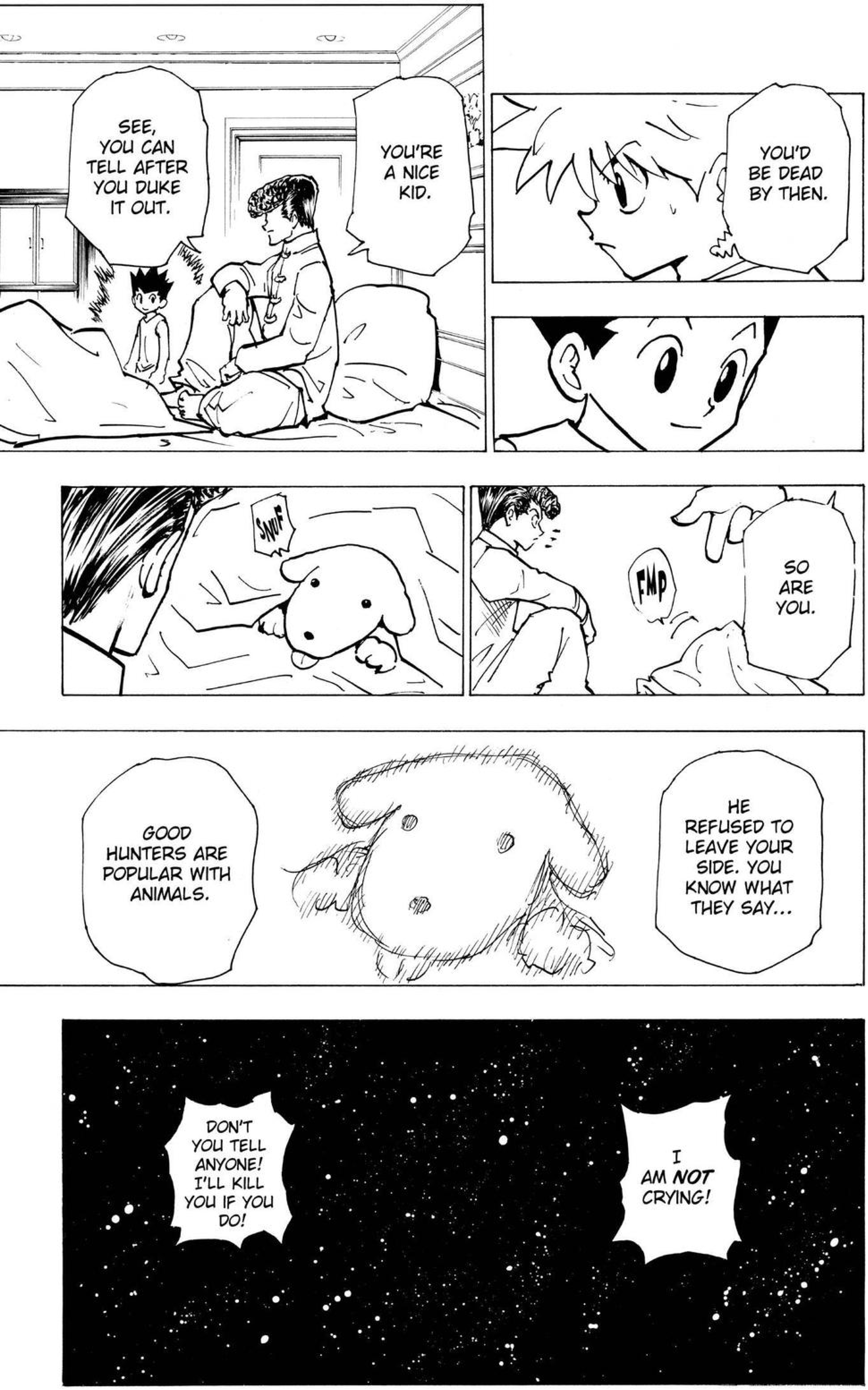

JAN!!
KEN!!!

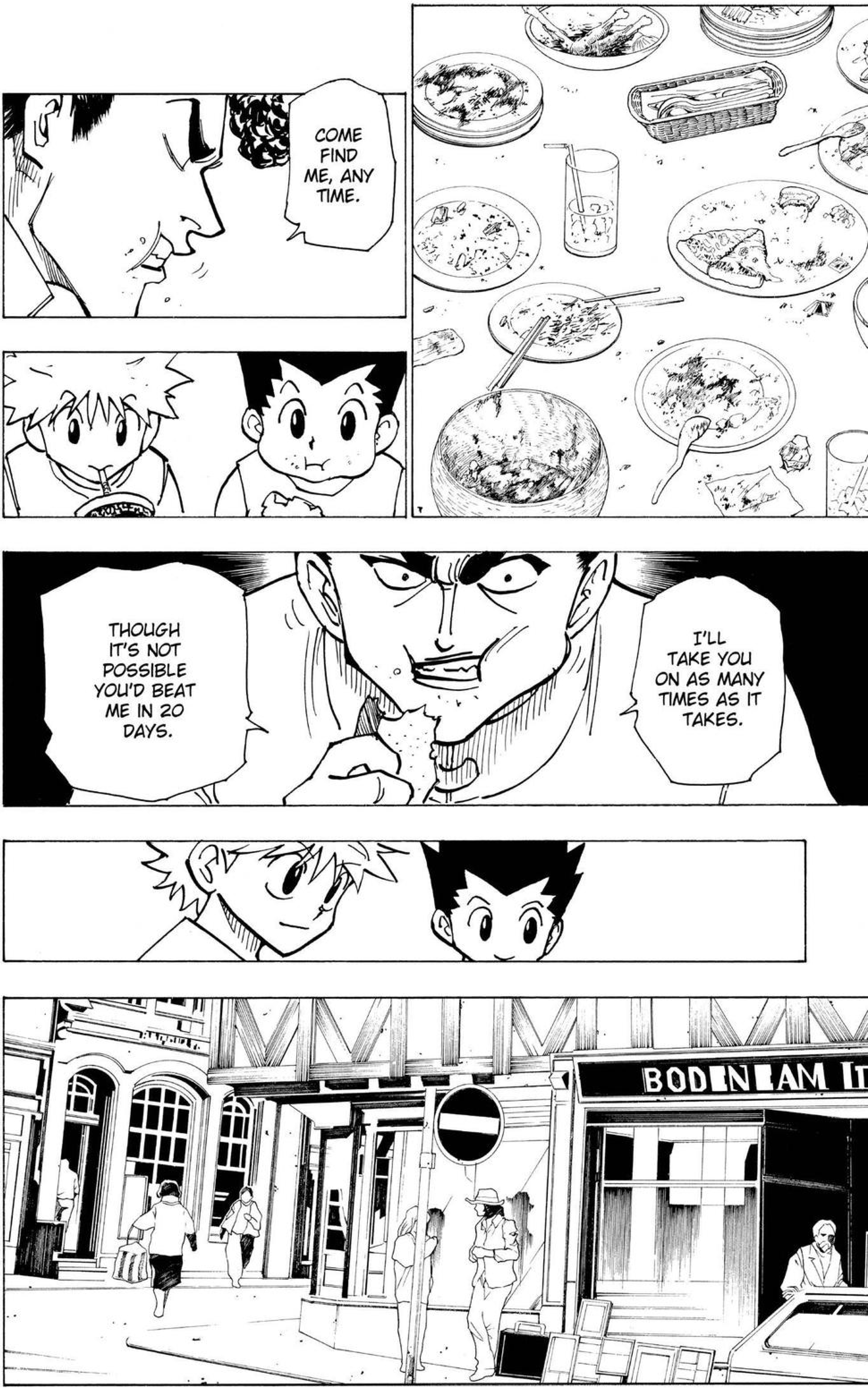

UM.. KNUCKLE?!
YOU O.K.?
UNH...
I KNEW...
...I COULD COUNT ON YOU...
SH...
WHAT'S WITH HIM?
HM.
JUST A TOTAL MORON. I GUESS.
OH!
YOU'RE AWAKE!

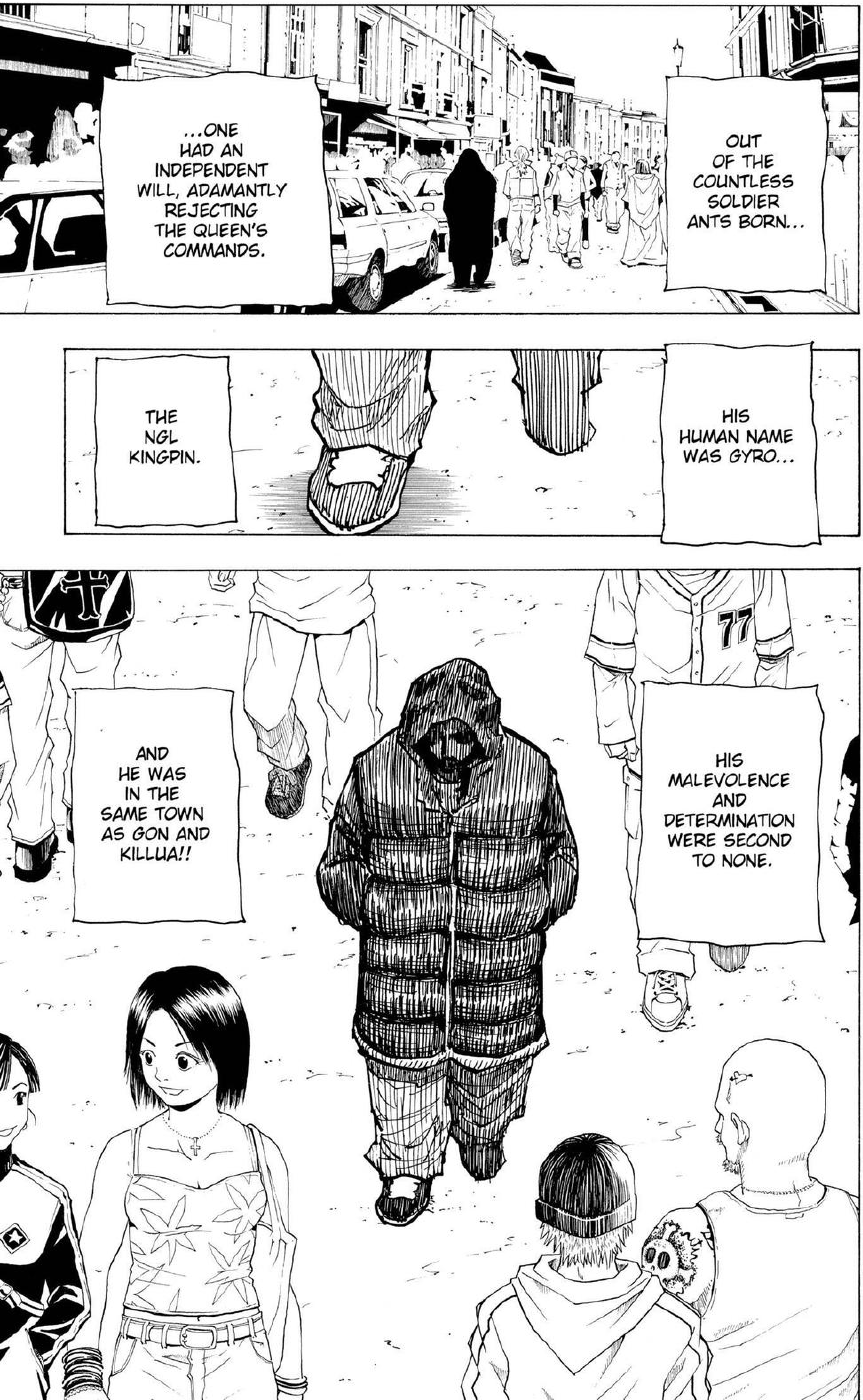
READ THIS WAY

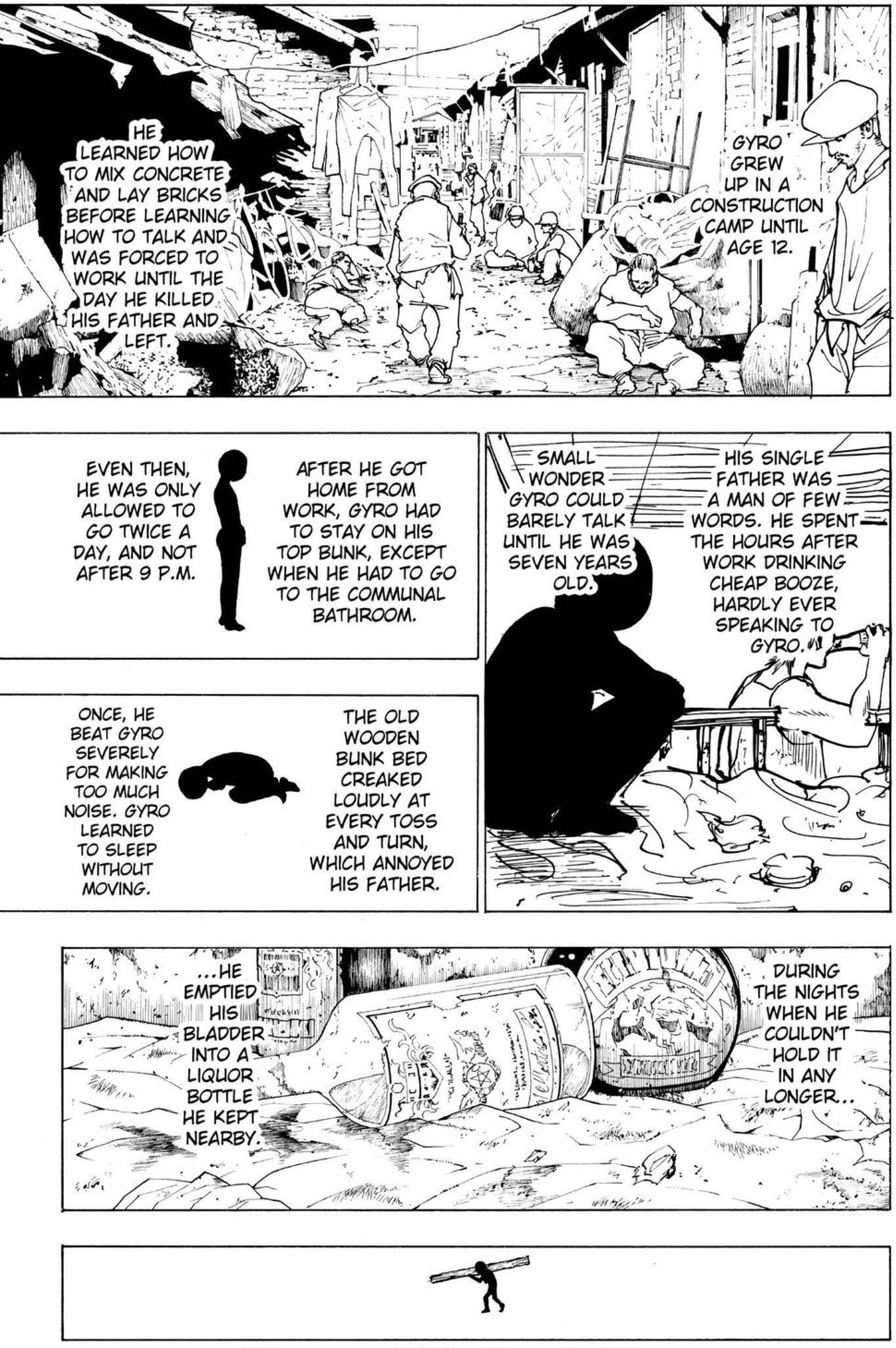

YOU'RE BETTER THAN I THOUGHT.
GUESS I UNDERESTIMATED YOU A BIT...
WHY DIDN'T YOU TAKE IT?
HUH?
MY HALF OF THE TILE.
東
YOU SHOULD'VE TAKEN IT AND LEFT ME THERE.
IT'S NOT THE TILES WE WANT...
...BUT THE CAPABILITY TO DEFEAT YOU IN AN HONEST BATTLE.
CAN I ASK A QUESTION?
SURE, ANYTHING.


WHY DID YOU BECOME A BEAST HUNTER?
LONG STORY.
IT'S NOT A HAPPY ONE EITHER.
THEN WHY'D YOU VOLUNTEER TO BE ON THE EXTERMINATION TEAM?
SIMPLY PUT...
...IT'S TO **NOT** GET THEM EXTERMINATED.
I HATE THIS BLANKET POLICY OF GETTING RID OF MISFITS.
MY MASTER TELLS ME I'M NAIVE, BUT WHAT CAN I SAY?
HOW CAN WE DECIDE WITHOUT SEEING THEM IN PERSON FIRST?
YOU GOTTA FACE 'EM TO UNDERSTAND 'EM.

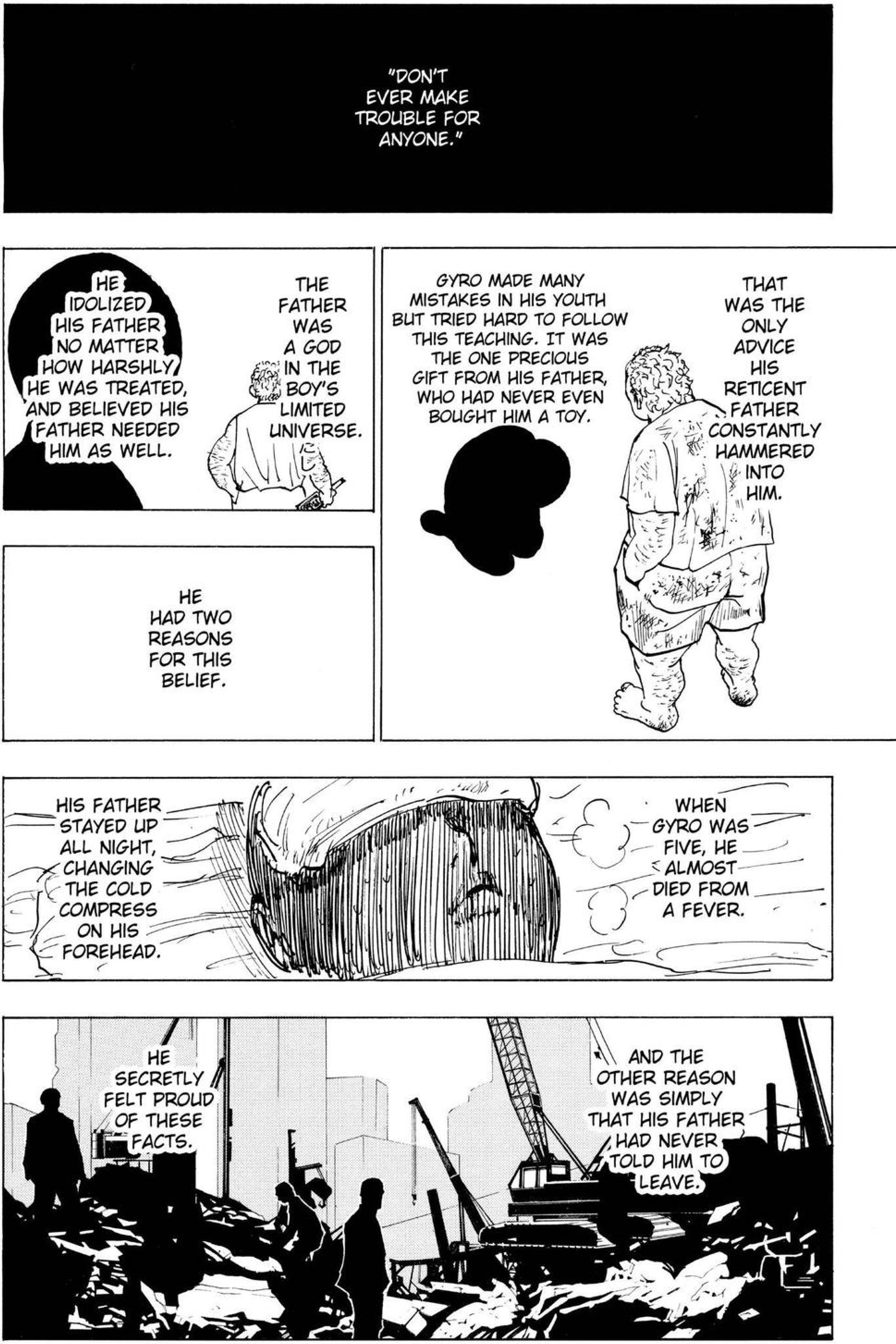

SEE, YOU CAN TELL AFTER YOU DUKE IT OUT.
YOU'RE A NICE KID.
YOU'D BE DEAD BY THEN.
SNUF
FMP
SO ARE YOU.
HE REFUSED TO LEAVE YOUR SIDE. YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY...
GOOD HUNTERS ARE POPULAR WITH ANIMALS.
I AM **NOT** CRYING!
DON'T YOU TELL ANYONE! I'LL KILL YOU IF YOU DO!

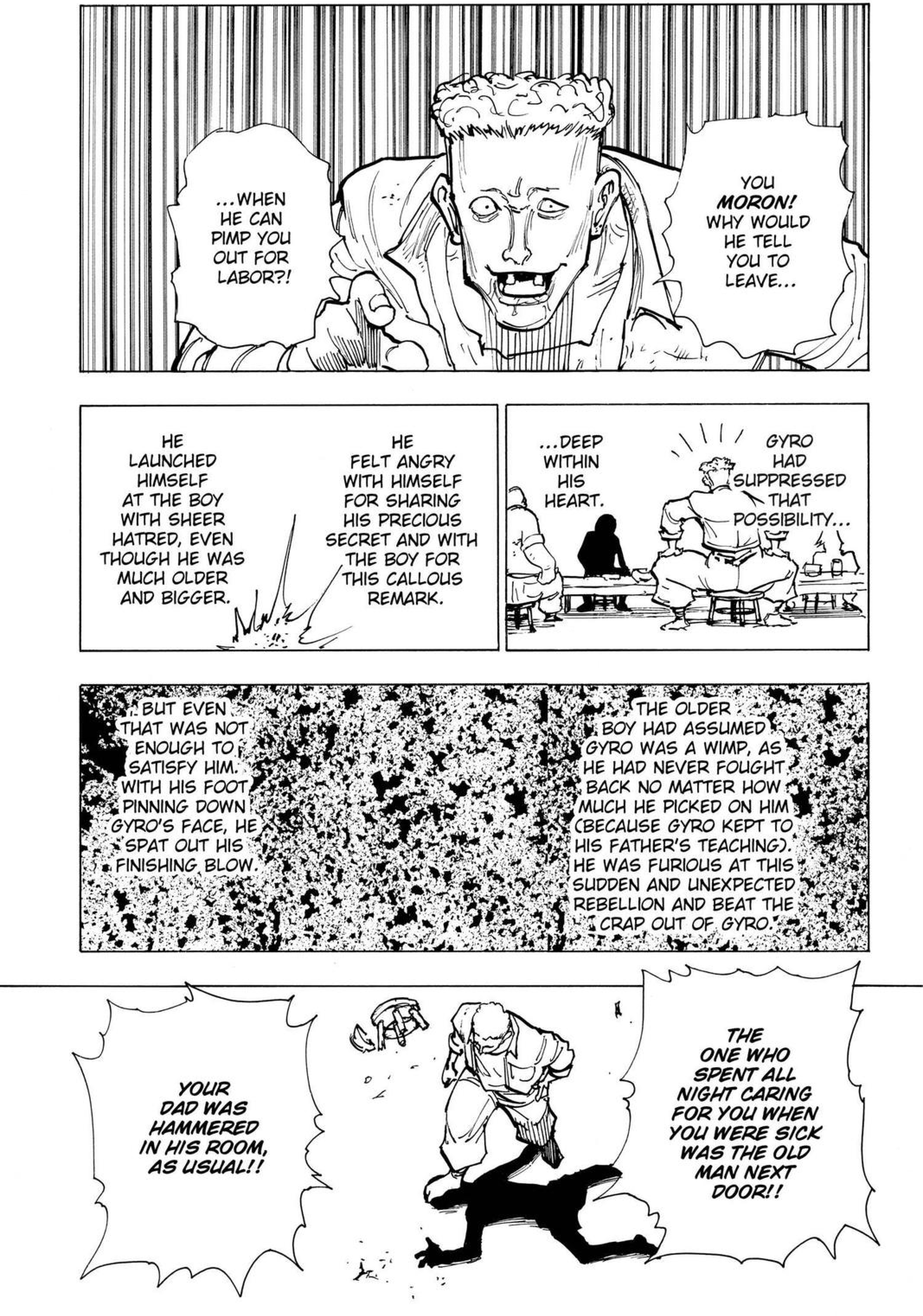

COME FIND ME, ANY TIME.
I'LL TAKE YOU ON AS MANY TIMES AS IT TAKES.
THOUGH IT'S NOT POSSIBLE YOU'D BEAT ME IN 20 DAYS.

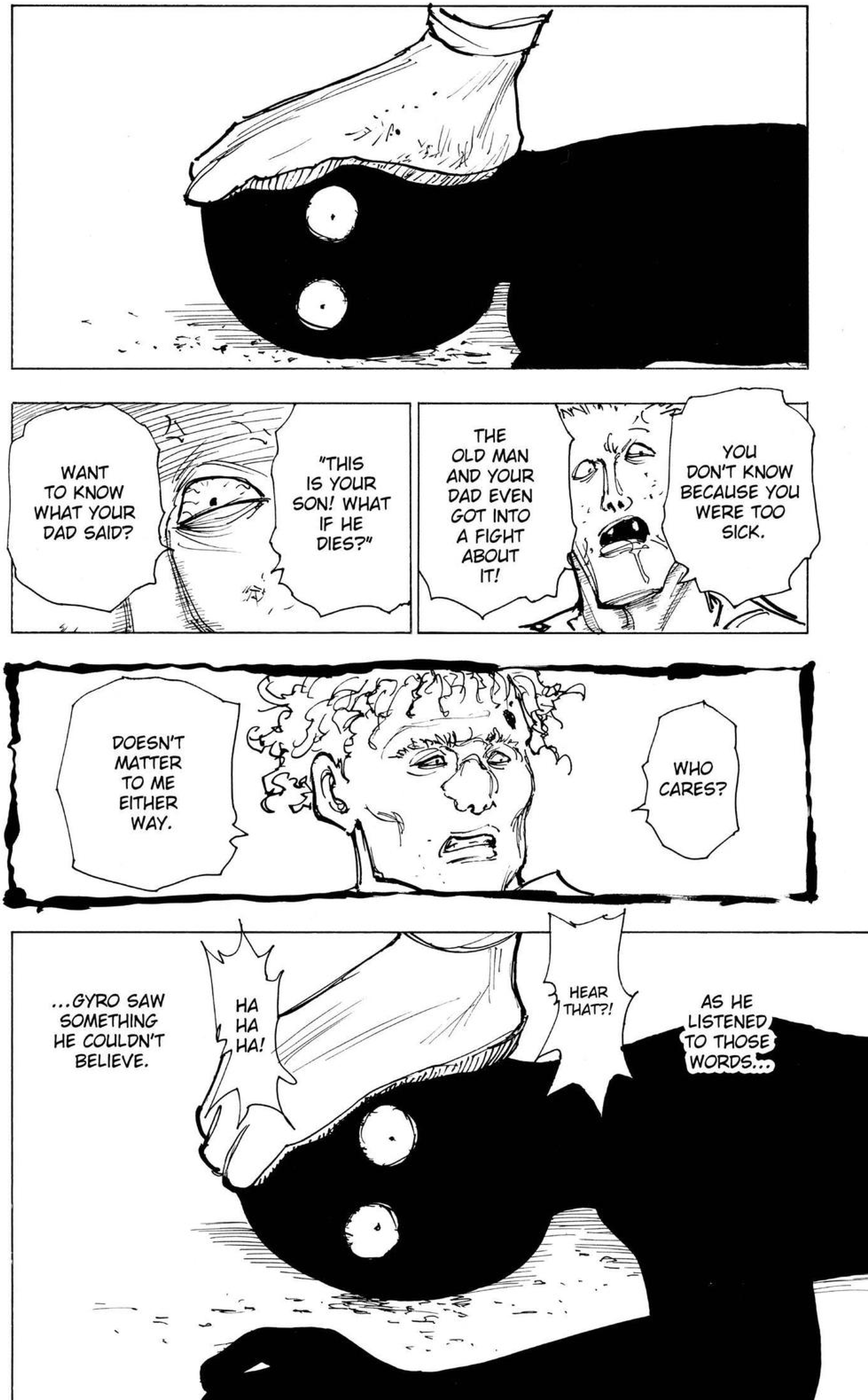

OUT OF THE COUNTLESS SOLDIER ANTS BORN...
...ONE HAD AN INDEPENDENT WILL, ADAMANTLY REJECTING THE QUEEN'S COMMANDS.
HIS HUMAN NAME WAS GYRO...
THE NGL KINGPIN.
HIS MALEVOLENCE AND DETERMINATION WERE SECOND TO NONE.
AND HE WAS IN THE SAME TOWN AS GON AND KILLUA!!
77

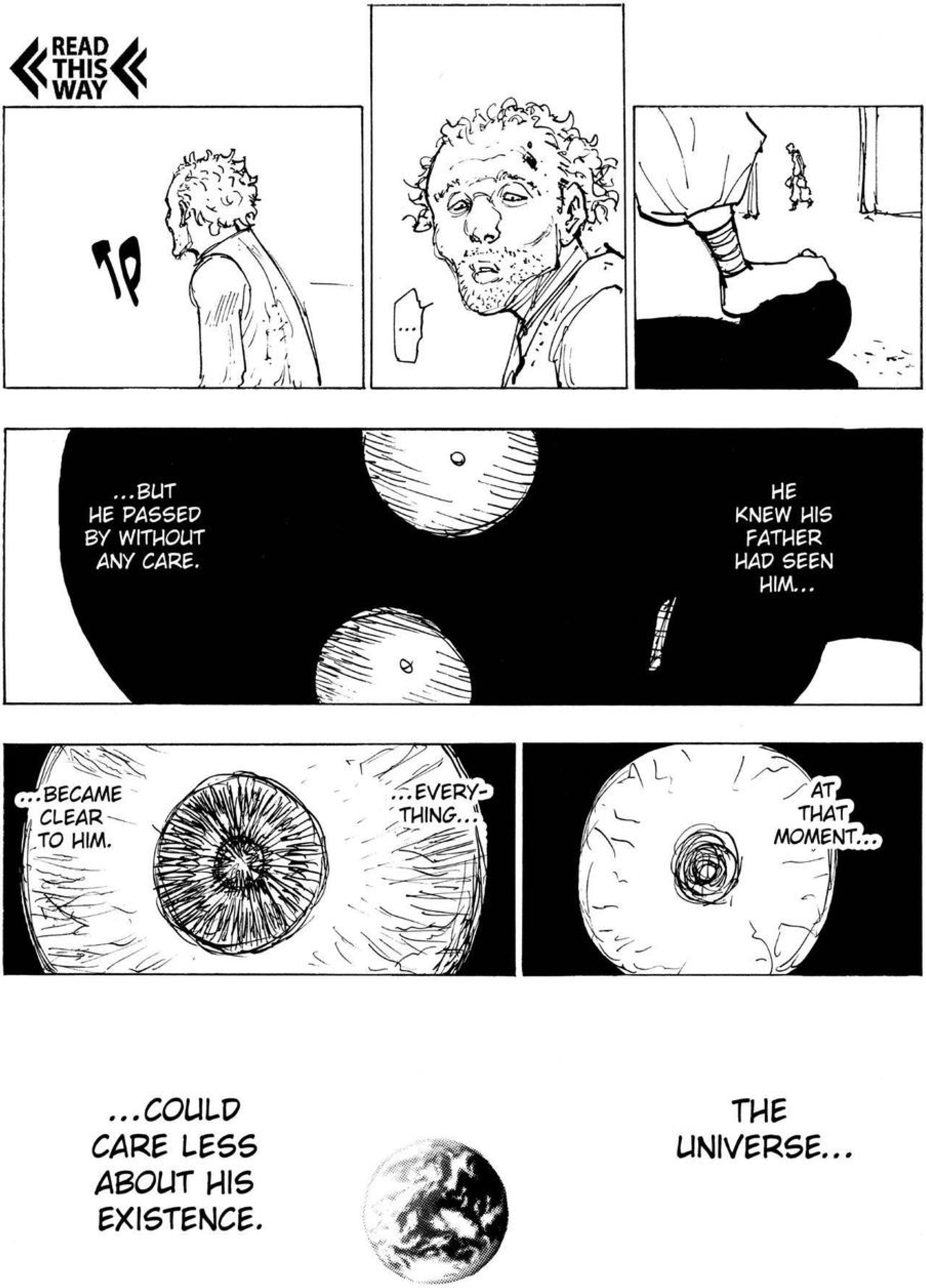

GYRO GREW UP IN A CONSTRUCTION CAMP UNTIL AGE 12.
HE LEARNED HOW TO MIX CONCRETE AND LAY BRICKS BEFORE LEARNING HOW TO TALK AND WAS FORCED TO WORK UNTIL THE DAY HE KILLED HIS FATHER AND LEFT.
HIS SINGLE FATHER WAS A MAN OF FEW WORDS. HE SPENT THE HOURS AFTER WORK DRINKING CHEAP BOOZE, HARDLY EVER SPEAKING TO GYRO.
SMALL WONDER GYRO COULD BARELY TALK UNTIL HE WAS SEVEN YEARS OLD.
AFTER HE GOT HOME FROM WORK, GYRO HAD TO STAY ON HIS TOP BUNK, EXCEPT WHEN HE HAD TO GO TO THE COMMUNAL BATHROOM.
EVEN THEN, HE WAS ONLY ALLOWED TO GO TWICE A DAY, AND NOT AFTER 9 P.M.
THE OLD WOODEN BUNK BED CREAKED LOUDLY AT EVERY TOSS AND TURN, WHICH ANNOYED HIS FATHER.
ONCE, HE BEAT GYRO SEVERELY FOR MAKING TOO MUCH NOISE. GYRO LEARNED TO SLEEP WITHOUT MOVING.
DURING THE NIGHTS WHEN HE COULDN'T HOLD IT IN ANY LONGER...
...HE EMPTIED HIS BLADDER INTO A LIQUOR BOTTLE HE KEPT NEARBY.

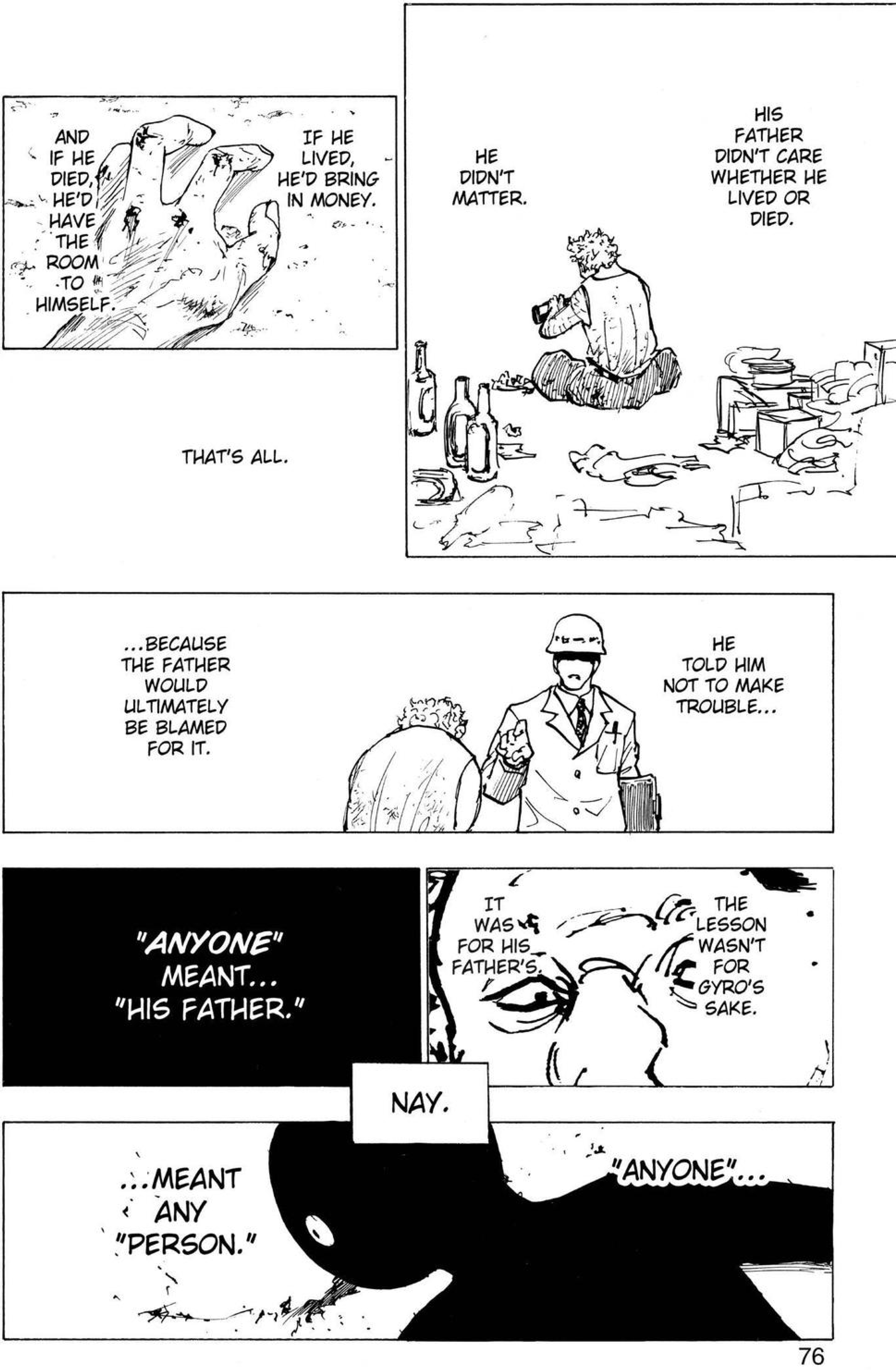
Chapter 204: Gyro's Story


"DON'T EVER MAKE TROUBLE FOR ANYONE."
THAT WAS THE ONLY ADVICE HIS RETICENT FATHER CONSTANTLY HAMMERED INTO HIM.
GYRO MADE MANY MISTAKES IN HIS YOUTH BUT TRIED HARD TO FOLLOW THIS TEACHING. IT WAS THE ONE PRECIOUS GIFT FROM HIS FATHER, WHO HAD NEVER EVEN BOUGHT HIM A TOY.
THE FATHER WAS A GOD IN THE BOY'S LIMITED UNIVERSE.
HE IDOLIZED HIS FATHER NO MATTER HOW HARSHLY HE WAS TREATED, AND BELIEVED HIS FATHER NEEDED HIM AS WELL.
HE HAD TWO REASONS FOR THIS BELIEF.
WHEN GYRO WAS FIVE, HE ALMOST DIED FROM A FEVER.
HIS FATHER STAYED UP ALL NIGHT, CHANGING THE COLD COMPRESS ON HIS FOREHEAD.
HE SECRETLY FELT PROUD OF THESE FACTS.
AND THE OTHER REASON WAS SIMPLY THAT HIS FATHER HAD NEVER TOLD HIM TO LEAVE.


YOU **MORON!** WHY WOULD HE TELL YOU TO LEAVE...
...WHEN HE CAN PIMP YOU OUT FOR LABOR?!
GYRO HAD SUPPRESSED THAT POSSIBILITY...
...DEEP WITHIN HIS HEART.
HE FELT ANGRY WITH HIMSELF FOR SHARING HIS PRECIOUS SECRET AND WITH THE BOY FOR THIS CALLOUS REMARK.
HE LAUNCHED HIMSELF AT THE BOY WITH SHEER HATRED, EVEN THOUGH HE WAS MUCH OLDER AND BIGGER.
THE OLDER BOY HAD ASSUMED GYRO WAS A WIMP, AS HE HAD NEVER FOUGHT BACK NO MATTER HOW MUCH HE PICKED ON HIM (BECAUSE GYRO KEPT TO HIS FATHER'S TEACHING). HE WAS FURIOUS AT THIS SUDDEN AND UNEXPECTED REBELLION AND BEAT THE CRAP OUT OF GYRO.
BUT EVEN THAT WAS NOT ENOUGH TO SATISFY HIM. WITH HIS FOOT PINNING DOWN GYRO'S FACE, HE SPAT OUT HIS FINISHING BLOW.
THE ONE WHO SPENT ALL NIGHT CARING FOR YOU WHEN YOU WERE SICK WAS THE OLD MAN NEXT DOOR!!
YOUR DAD WAS HAMMERED IN HIS ROOM, AS USUAL!!

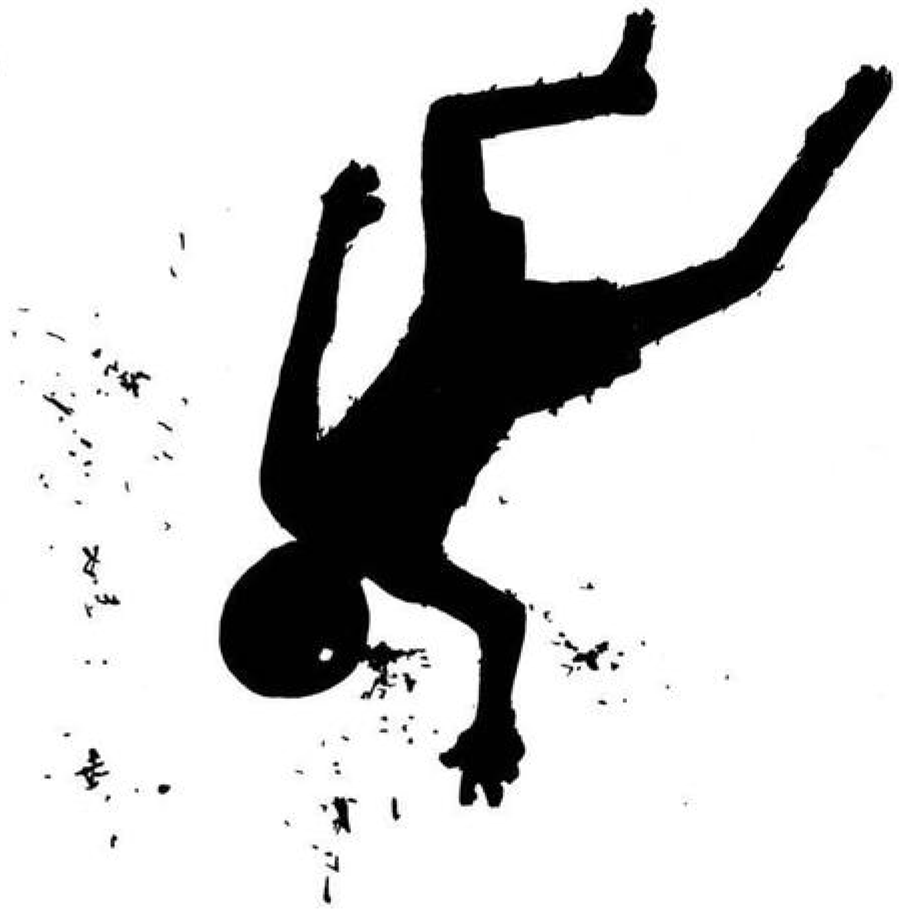

YOU DON'T KNOW BECAUSE YOU WERE TOO SICK.
THE OLD MAN AND YOUR DAD EVEN GOT INTO A FIGHT ABOUT IT!
WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOUR DAD SAID?
"THIS IS YOUR SON! WHAT IF HE DIES?"
WHO CARES?
DOESN'T MATTER TO ME EITHER WAY.
AS HE LISTENED TO THOSE WORDS...
HEAR THAT?!
HA HA HA!
...GYRO SAW SOMETHING HE COULDN'T BELIEVE.

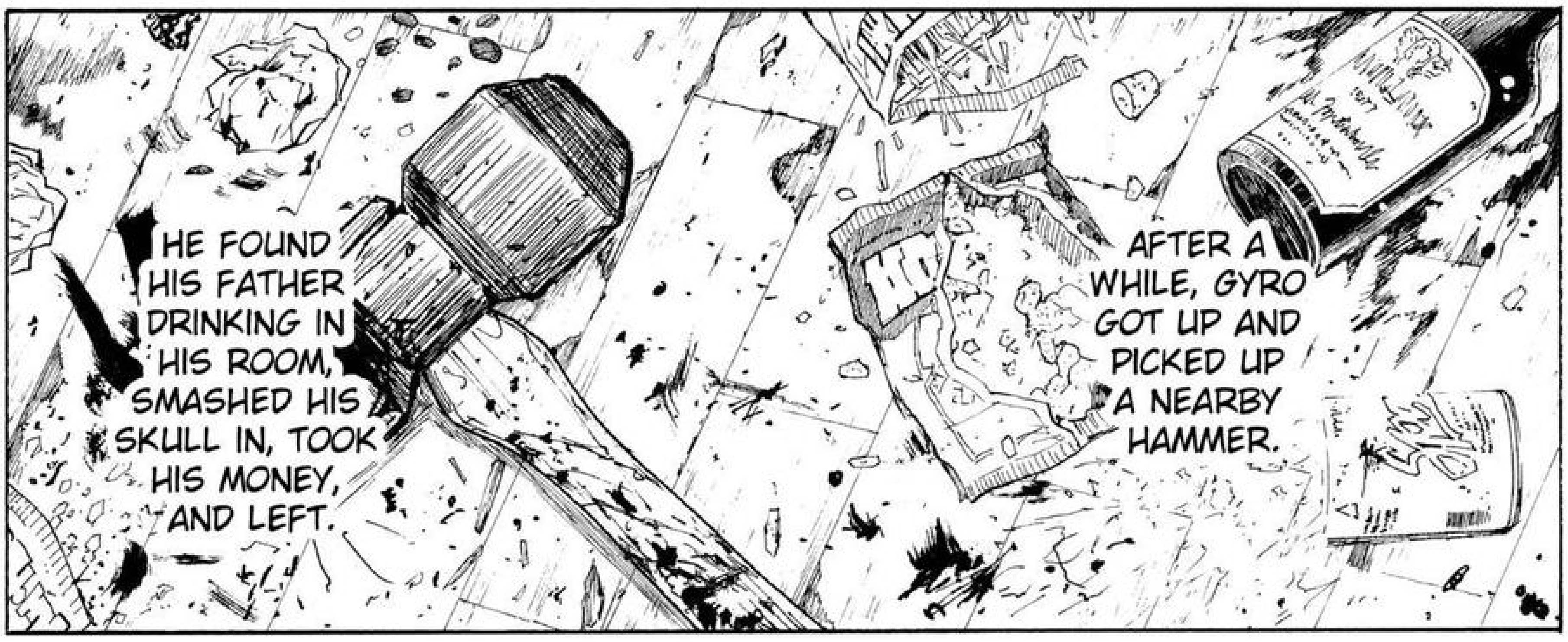

READ THIS WAY
...
TP
HE KNEW HIS FATHER HAD SEEN HIM...
...BUT HE PASSED BY WITHOUT ANY CARE.
AT THAT MOMENT...
...EVERYTHING...
...BECAME CLEAR TO HIM.
THE UNIVERSE...
...COULD CARE LESS ABOUT HIS EXISTENCE.


HIS FATHER DIDN'T CARE WHETHER HE LIVED OR DIED.
HE DIDN'T MATTER.
IF HE LIVED, HE'D BRING IN MONEY.
AND IF HE DIED, HE'D HAVE THE ROOM TO HIMSELF.
THAT'S ALL.
HE TOLD HIM NOT TO MAKE TROUBLE...
...BECAUSE THE FATHER WOULD ULTIMATELY BE BLAMED FOR IT.
THE LESSON WASN'T FOR GYRO'S SAKE.
IT WAS FOR HIS FATHER'S.
"ANYONE" MEANT... "HIS FATHER."
NAY.
"ANYONE"...
...MEANT ANY "PERSON."

READ THIS WAY

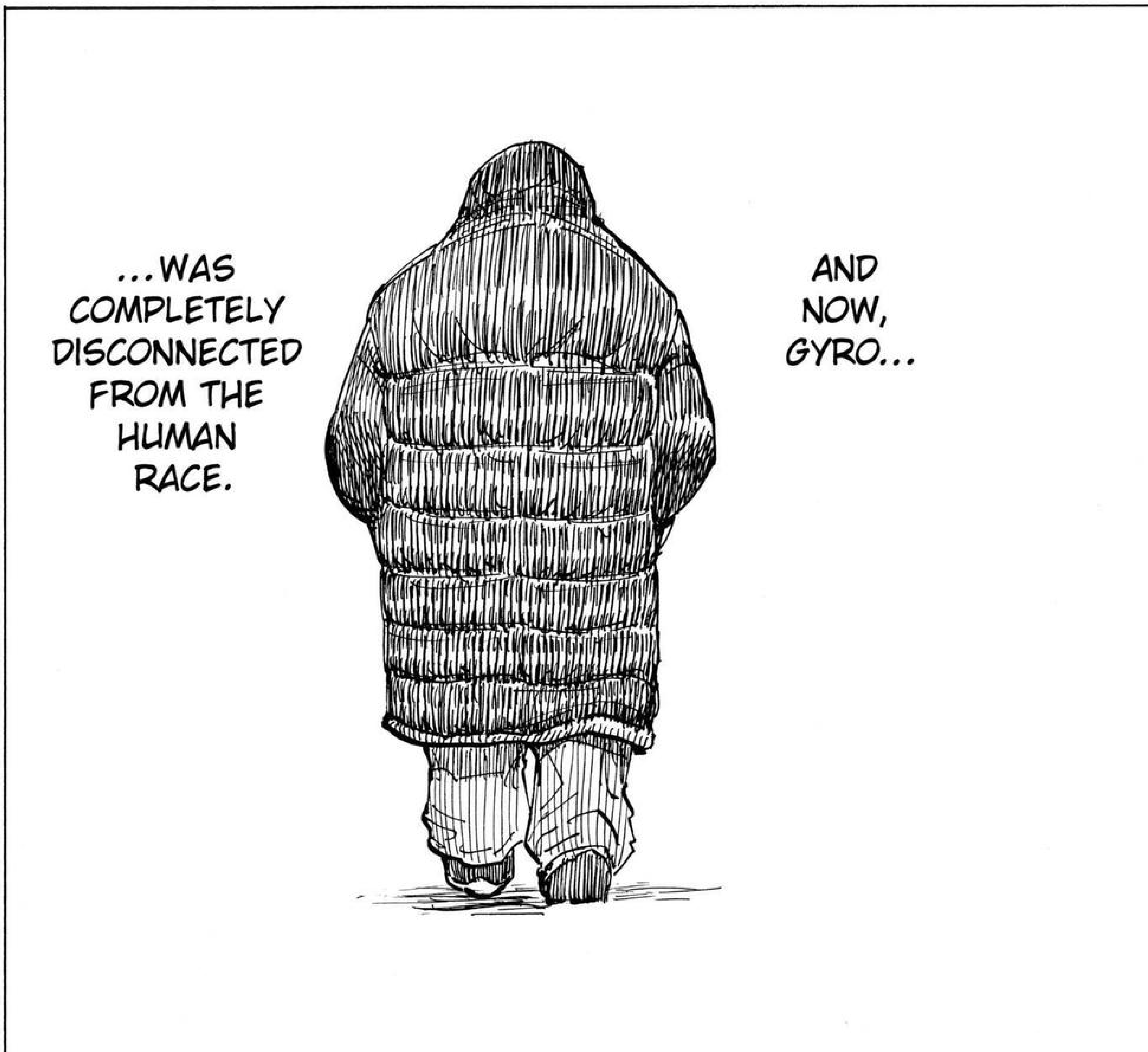
"DON'T EVER MAKE TROUBLE FOR ANYONE."

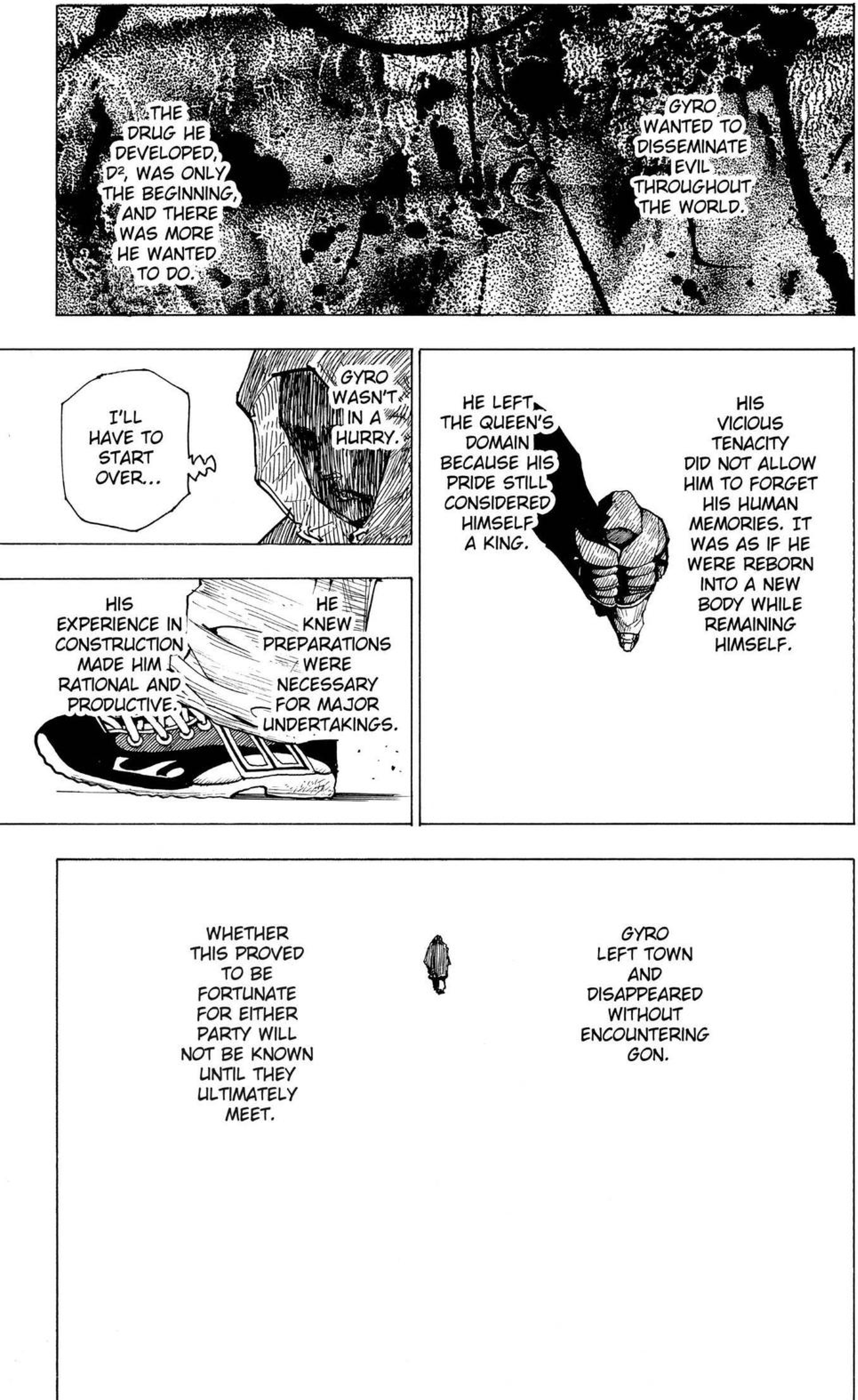

I WAS NOT A "PERSON."
I WAS NOBODY AT ALL.

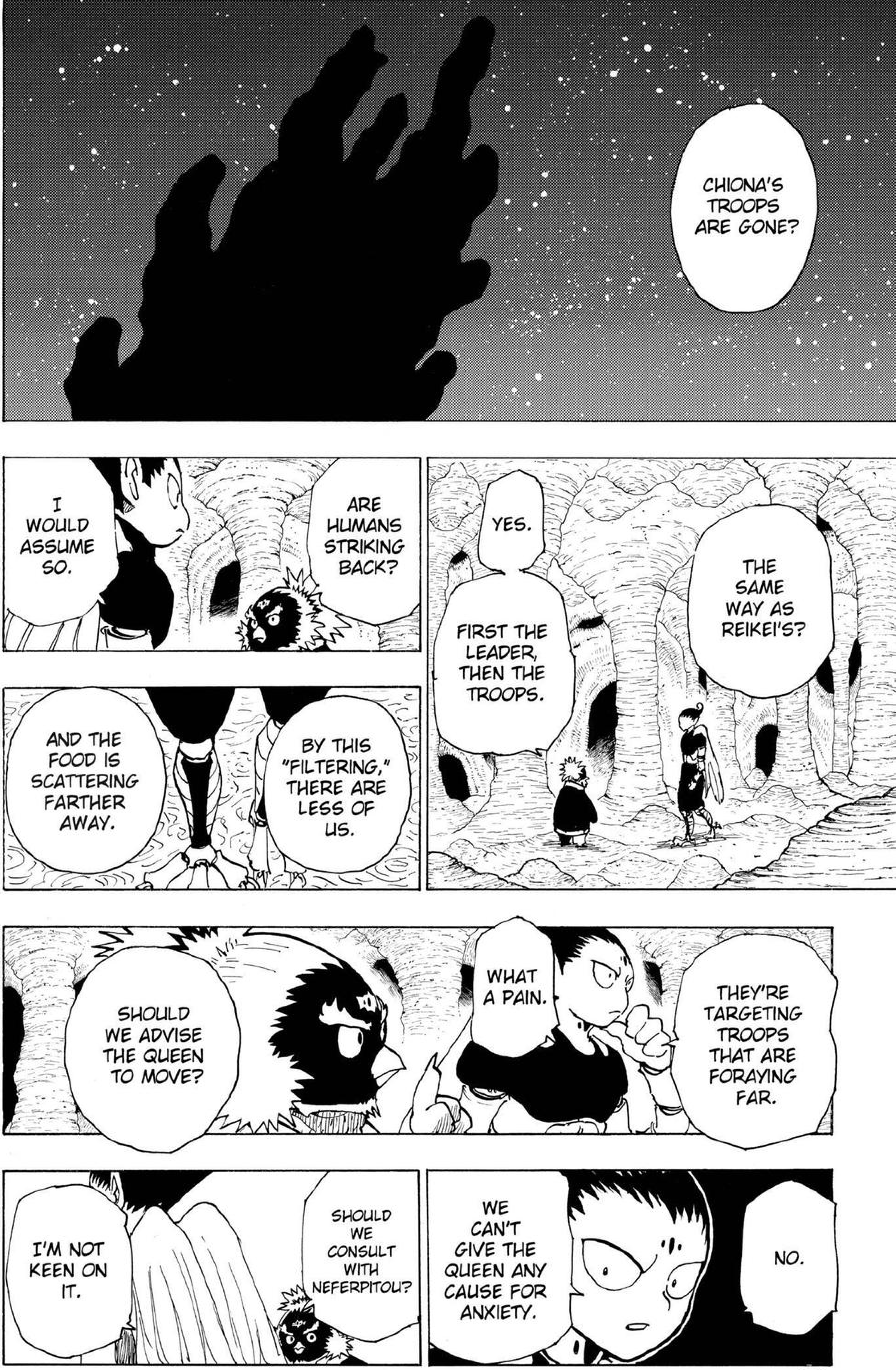

AFTER A WHILE, GYRO GOT UP AND PICKED UP A NEARBY HAMMER.
HE FOUND HIS FATHER DRINKING IN HIS ROOM, SMASHED HIS SKULL IN, TOOK HIS MONEY, AND LEFT.

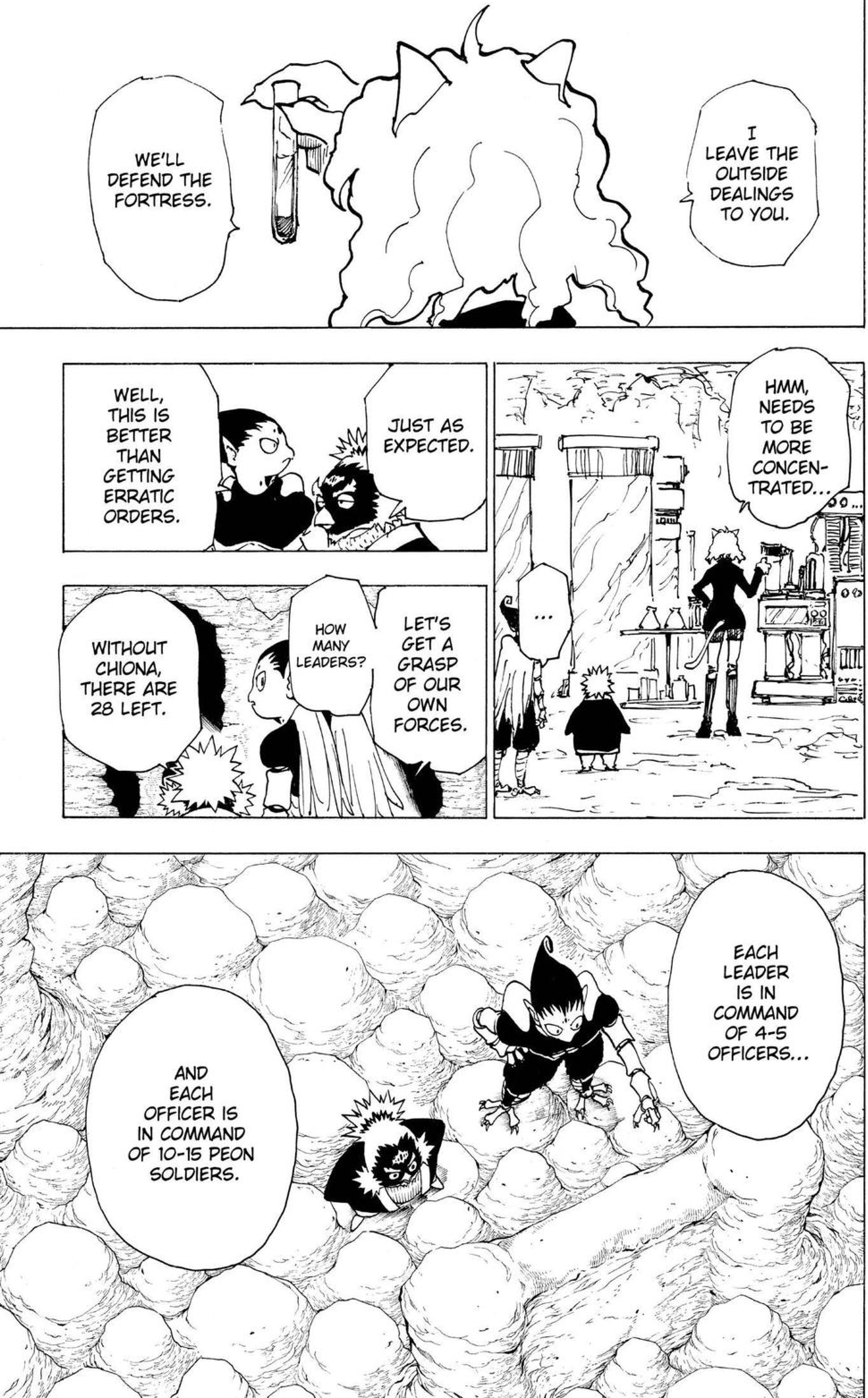
NINE YEARS LATER, GYRO ESTABLISHED NGL.

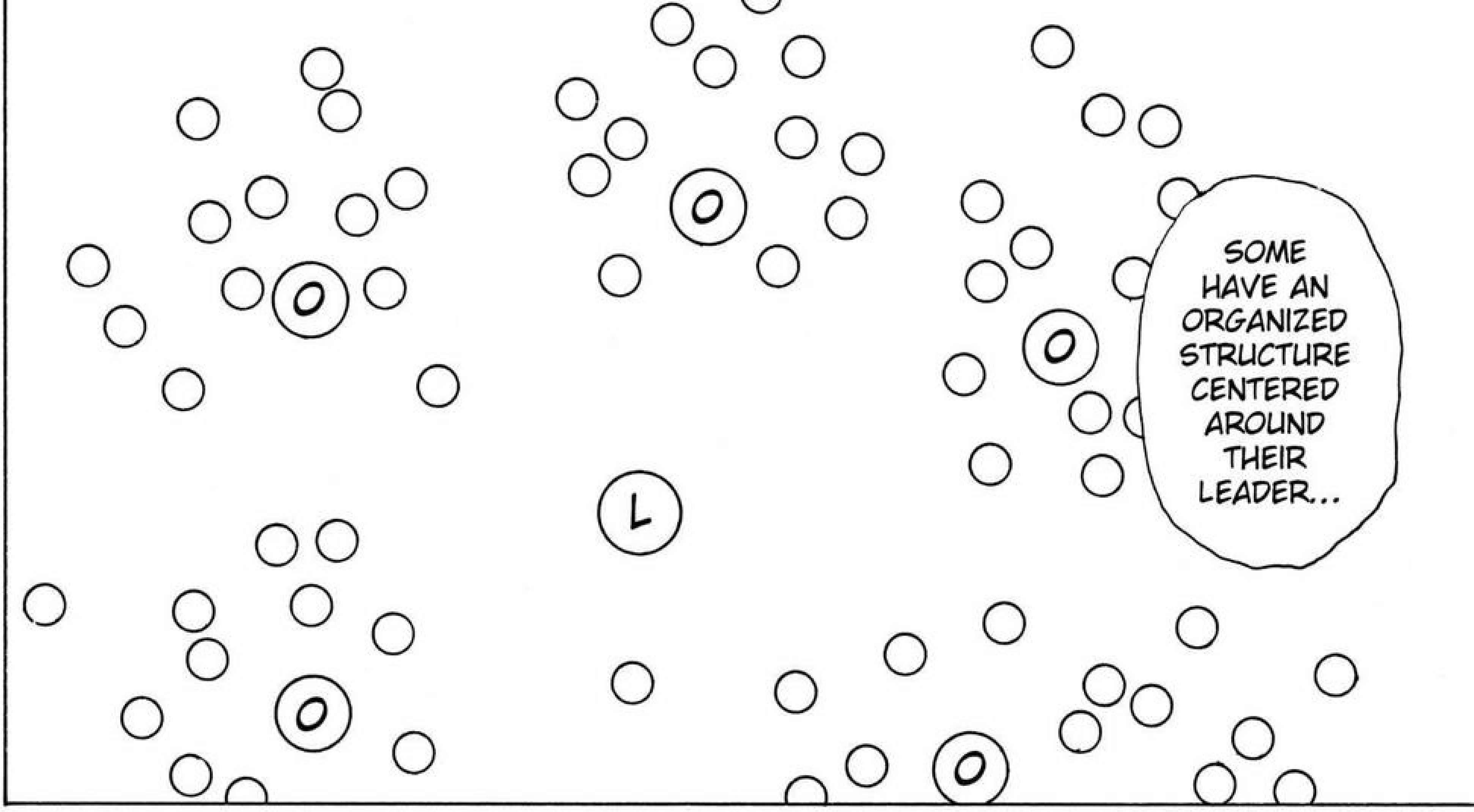
NINE YEARS AFTER THAT, IT BECAME A NATION, AND HE WAS ITS KING.


AND NOW, GYRO...
...WAS COMPLETELY DISCONNECTED FROM THE HUMAN RACE.

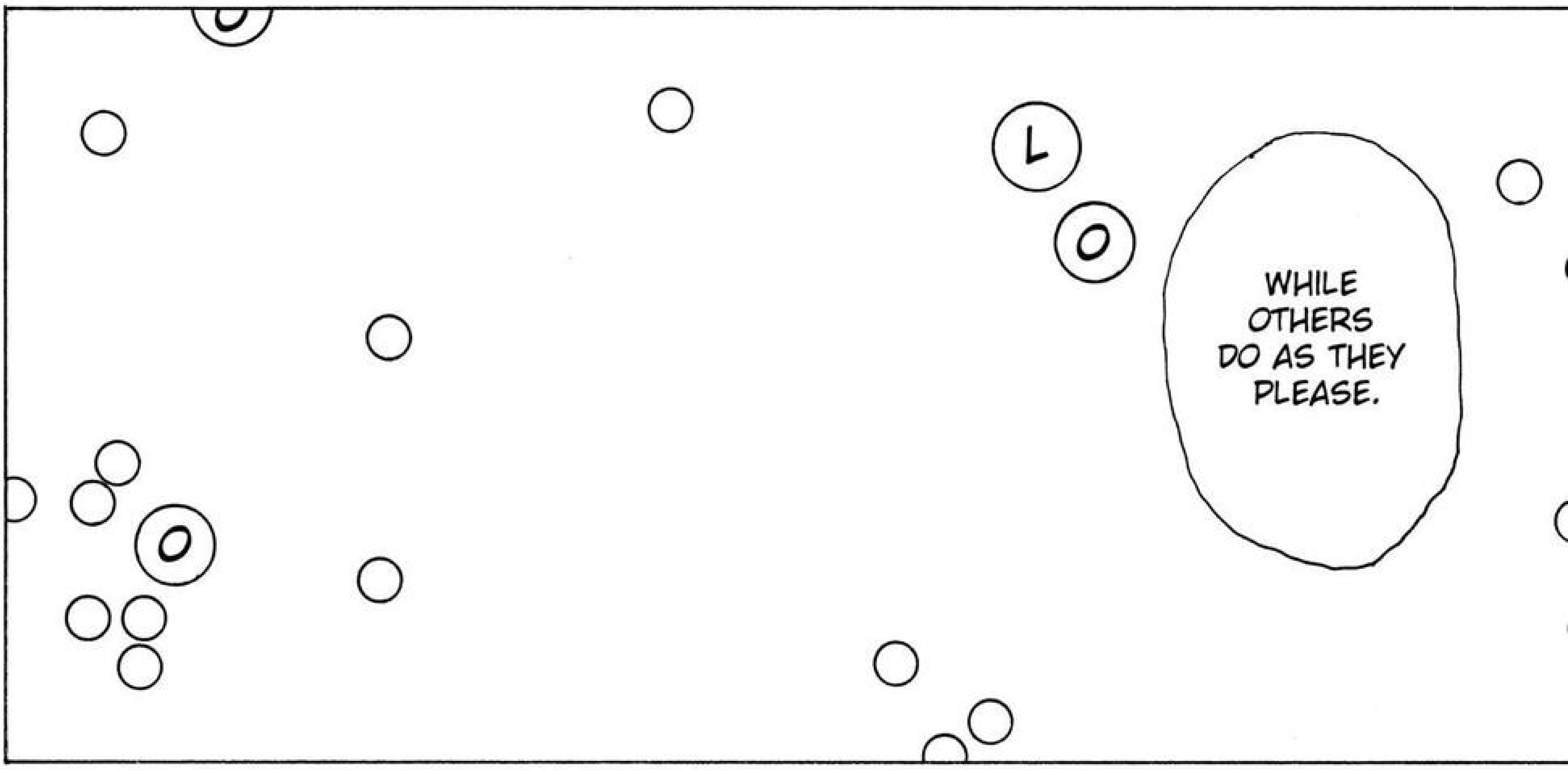

GYRO WANTED TO DISSEMINATE EVIL THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.
THE DRUG HE DEVELOPED, D^2, WAS ONLY THE BEGINNING, AND THERE WAS MORE HE WANTED TO DO.
HIS VICIOUS TENACITY DID NOT ALLOW HIM TO FORGET HIS HUMAN MEMORIES. IT WAS AS IF HE WERE REBORN INTO A NEW BODY WHILE REMAINING HIMSELF.
HE LEFT THE QUEEN'S DOMAIN BECAUSE HIS PRIDE STILL CONSIDERED HIMSELF A KING.
GYRO WASN'T IN A HURRY.
I'LL HAVE TO START OVER...
HE KNEW PREPARATIONS WERE NECESSARY FOR MAJOR UNDERTAKINGS.
HIS EXPERIENCE IN CONSTRUCTION MADE HIM RATIONAL AND PRODUCTIVE.
GYRO LEFT TOWN AND DISAPPEARED WITHOUT ENCOUNTERING GON.
WHETHER THIS PROVED TO BE FORTUNATE FOR EITHER PARTY WILL NOT BE KNOWN UNTIL THEY ULTIMATELY MEET.

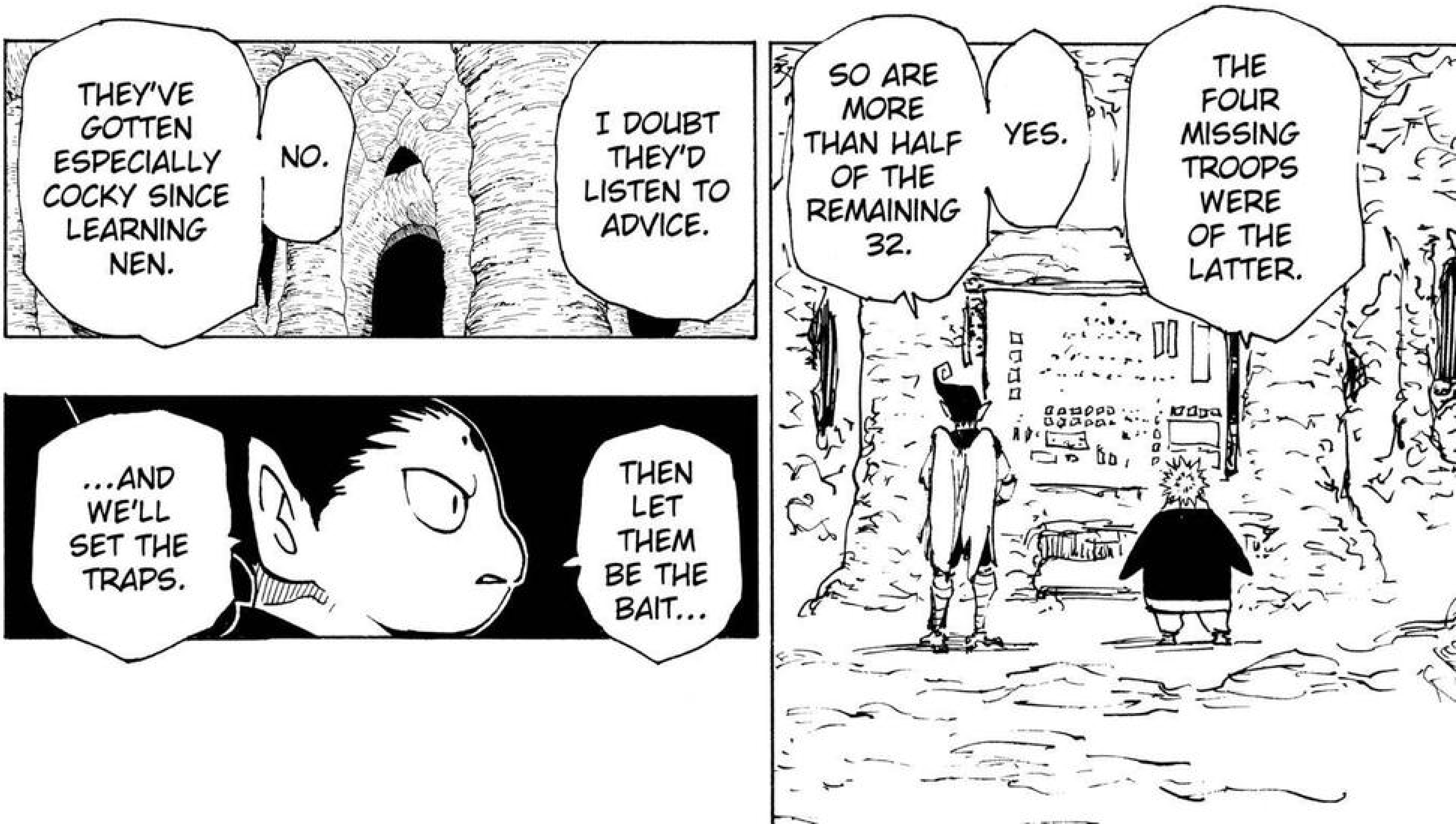

CHIONA'S TROOPS ARE GONE?
THE SAME WAY AS REIKEI'S?
YES.
FIRST THE LEADER, THEN THE TROOPS.
ARE HUMANS STRIKING BACK?
I WOULD ASSUME SO.
BY THIS "FILTERING," THERE ARE LESS OF US.
AND THE FOOD IS SCATTERING FARTHER AWAY.
THEY'RE TARGETING TROOPS THAT ARE FORAYING FAR.
WHAT A PAIN.
SHOULD WE ADVISE THE QUEEN TO MOVE?
NO.
WE CAN'T GIVE THE QUEEN ANY CAUSE FOR ANXIETY.
SHOULD WE CONSULT WITH NEFERPITOU?
I'M NOT KEEN ON IT.

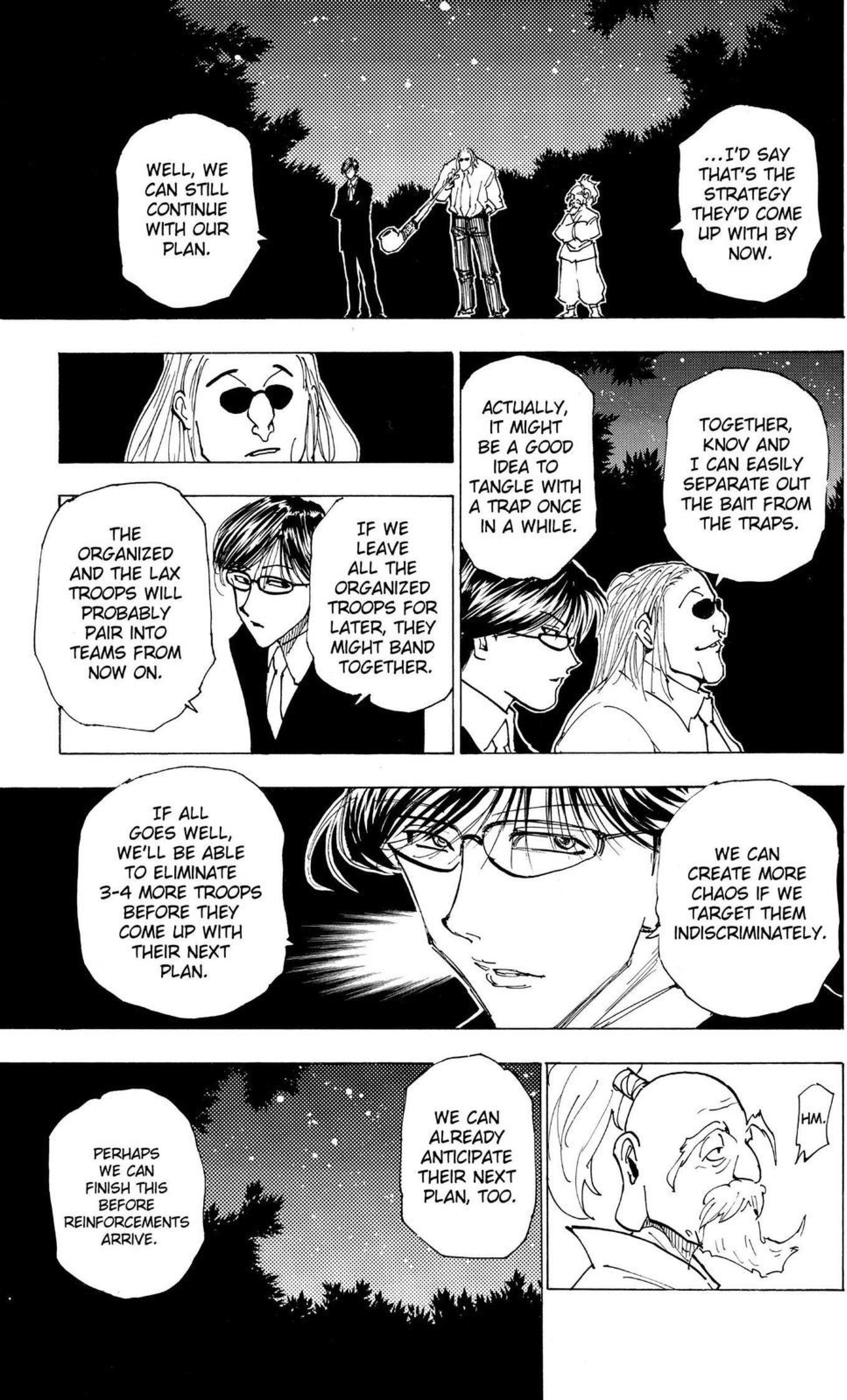

I LEAVE THE OUTSIDE DEALINGS TO YOU.
WE'LL DEFEND THE FORTRESS.
HMM, NEEDS TO BE MORE CONCENTRATED...
...
JUST AS EXPECTED.
WELL, THIS IS BETTER THAN GETTING ERRATIC ORDERS.
LET'S GET A GRASP OF OUR OWN FORCES.
HOW MANY LEADERS?
WITHOUT CHIONA, THERE ARE 28 LEFT.
EACH LEADER IS IN COMMAND OF 4-5 OFFICERS...
AND EACH OFFICER IS IN COMMAND OF 10-15 PEON SOLDIERS.

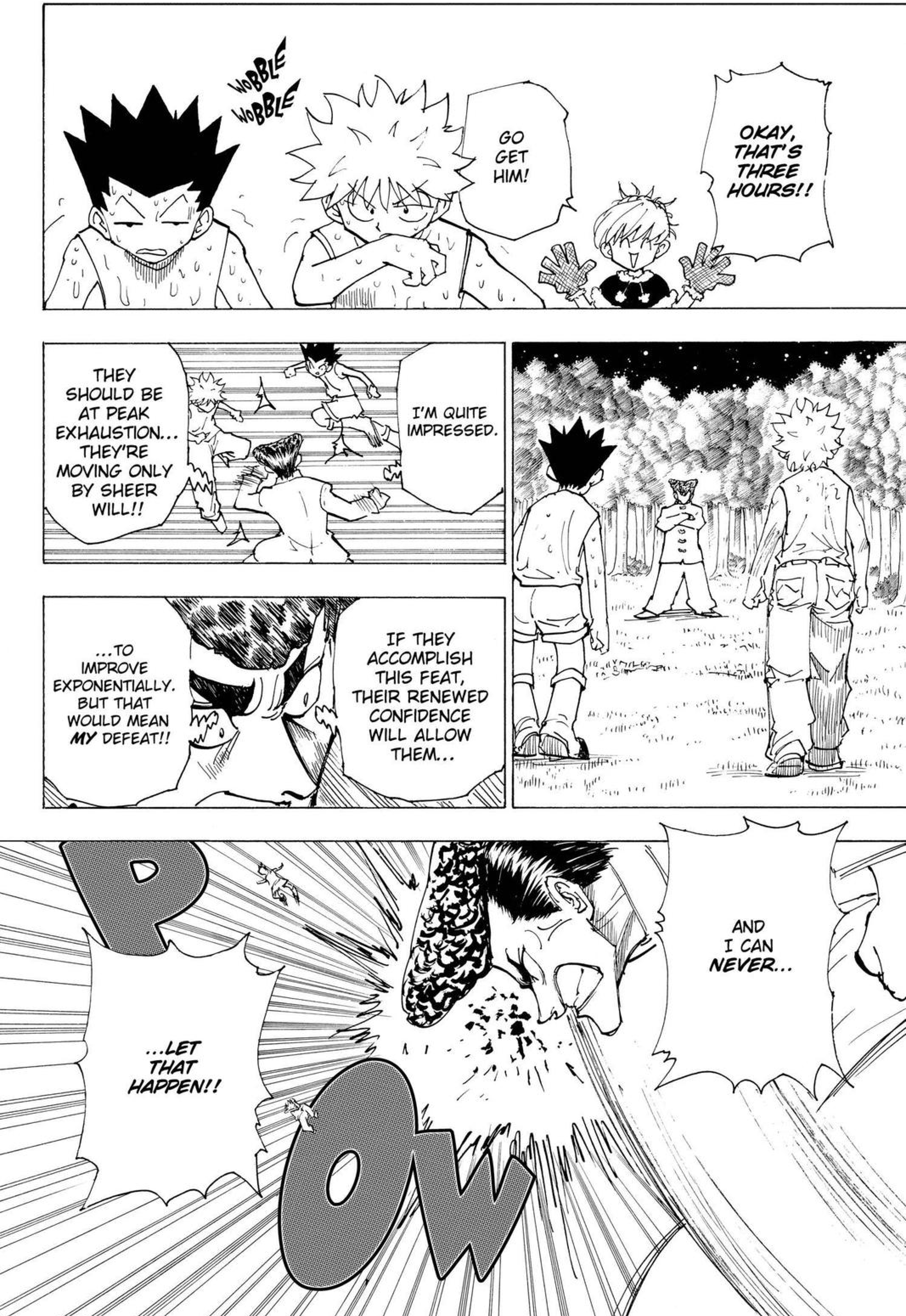

SOME HAVE AN ORGANIZED STRUCTURE CENTERED AROUND THEIR LEADER...
L
O

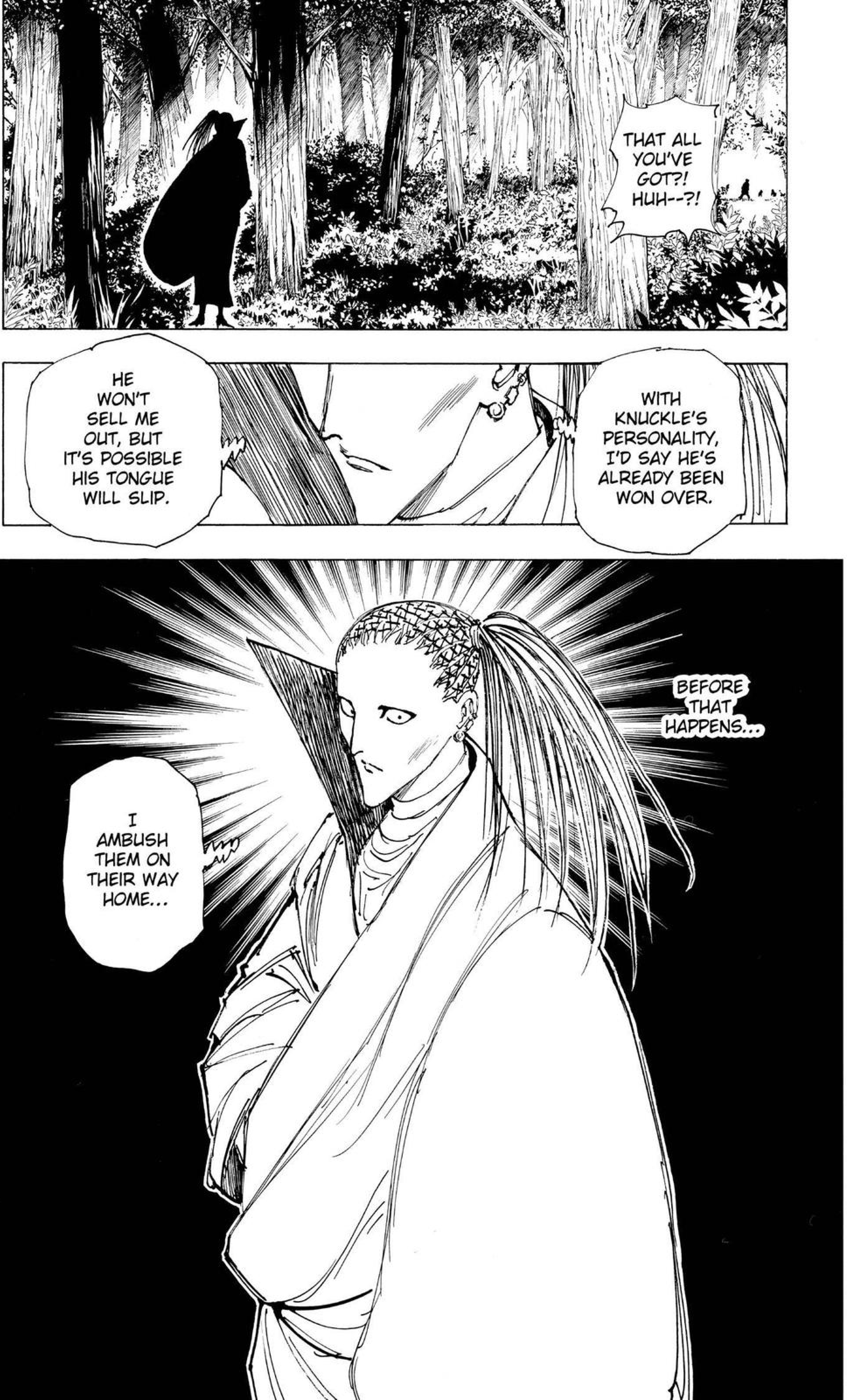
L = LEADER O = OFFICER

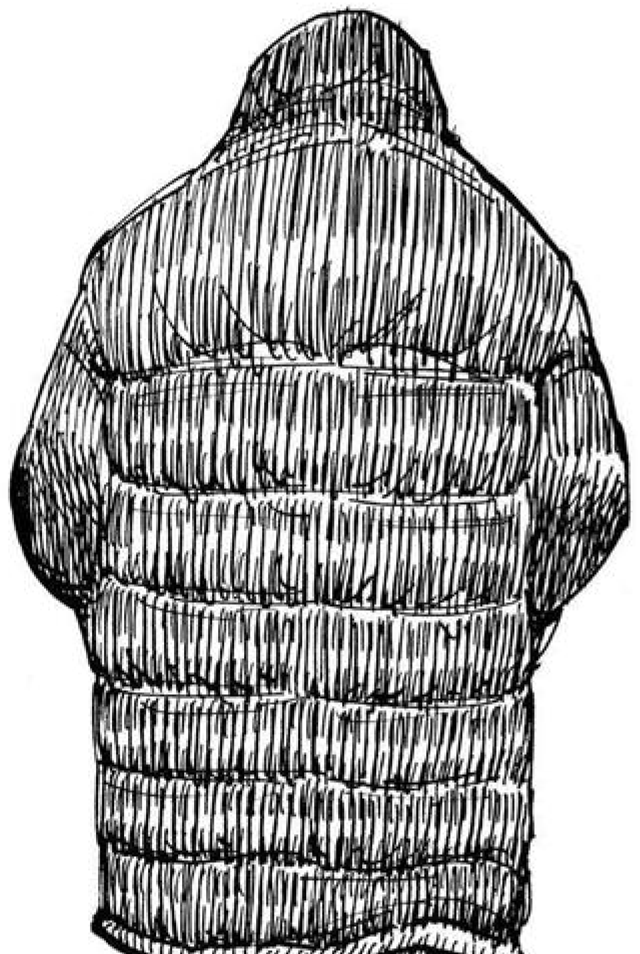

WHILE OTHERS DO AS THEY PLEASE.
L
O

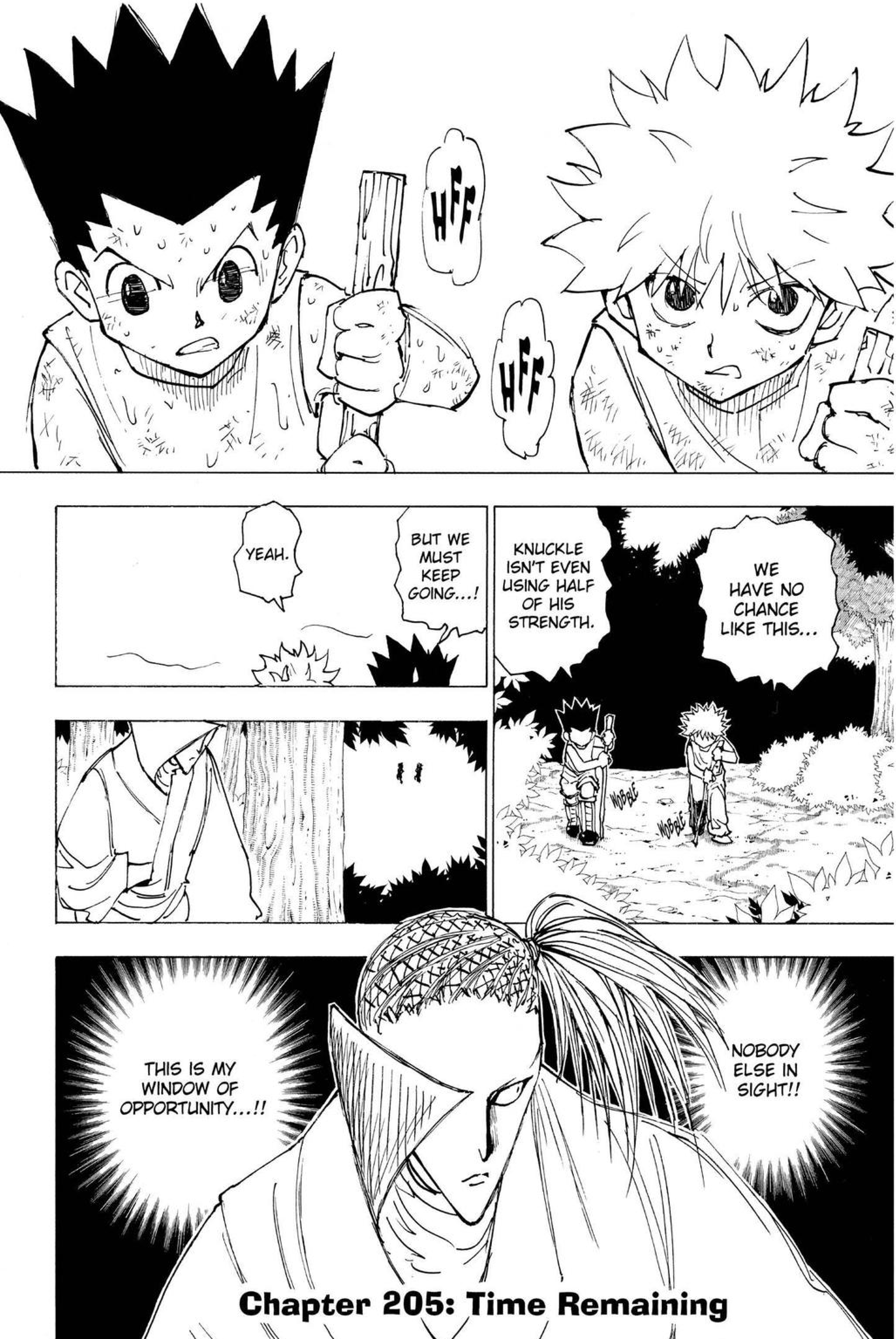

THE FOUR MISSING TROOPS WERE OF THE LATTER.
YES.
SO ARE MORE THAN HALF OF THE REMAINING 32.
I DOUBT THEY'D LISTEN TO ADVICE.
NO.
THEY'VE GOTTEN ESPECIALLY COCKY SINCE LEARNING NEN.
THEN LET THEM BE THE BAIT...
...AND WE'LL SET THE TRAPS.


...I'D SAY THAT'S THE STRATEGY THEY'D COME UP WITH BY NOW.
WELL, WE CAN STILL CONTINUE WITH OUR PLAN.
TOGETHER, KNOV AND I CAN EASILY SEPARATE OUT THE BAIT FROM THE TRAPS.
ACTUALLY, IT MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA TO TANGLE WITH A TRAP ONCE IN A WHILE.
IF WE LEAVE ALL THE ORGANIZED TROOPS FOR LATER, THEY MIGHT BAND TOGETHER.
THE ORGANIZED AND THE LAX TROOPS WILL PROBABLY PAIR INTO TEAMS FROM NOW ON.
WE CAN CREATE MORE CHAOS IF WE TARGET THEM INDISCRIMINATELY.
IF ALL GOES WELL, WE'LL BE ABLE TO ELIMINATE 3-4 MORE TROOPS BEFORE THEY COME UP WITH THEIR NEXT PLAN.
HM.
WE CAN ALREADY ANTICIPATE THEIR NEXT PLAN, TOO.
PERHAPS WE CAN FINISH THIS BEFORE REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVE.

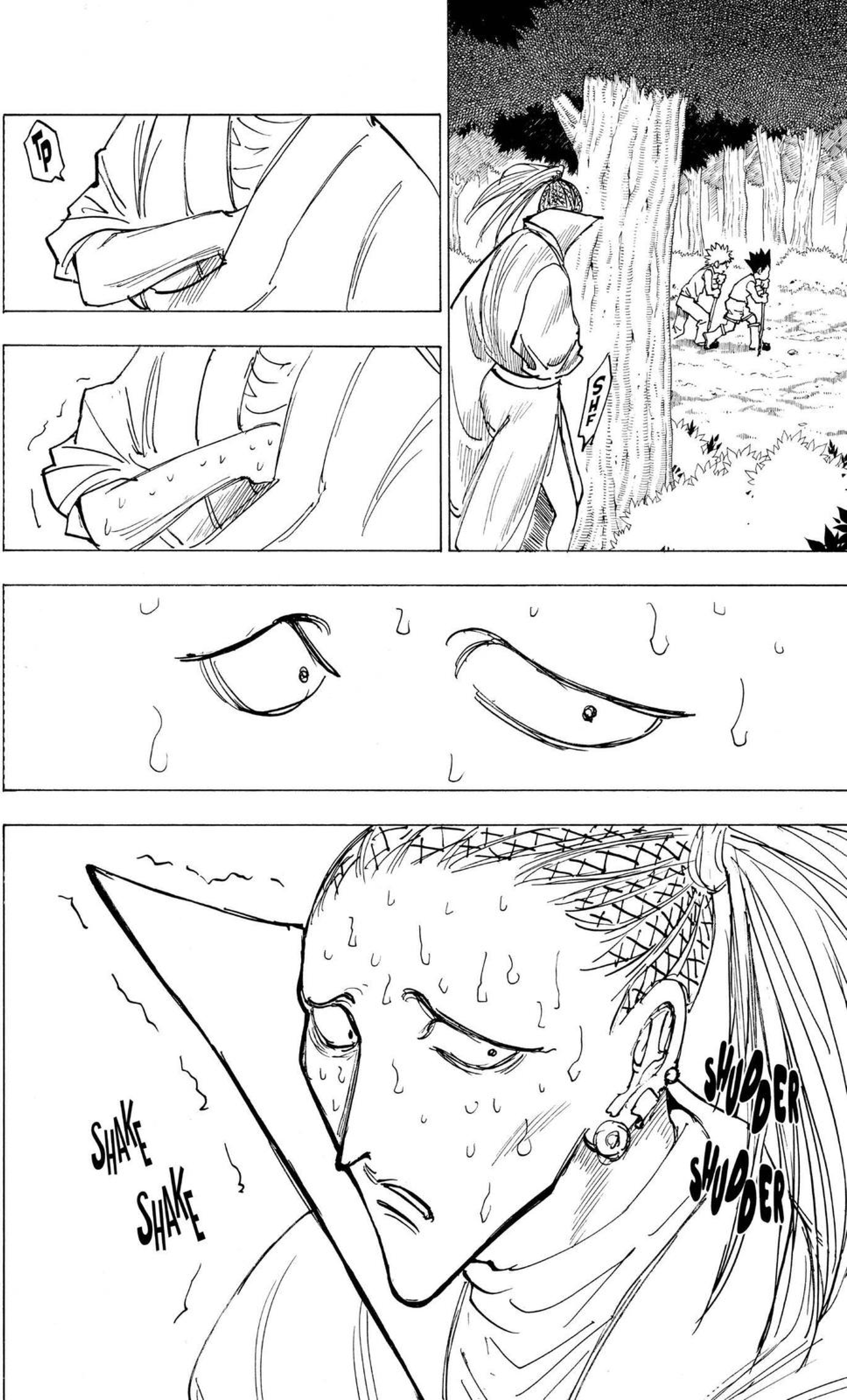

OKAY, THAT'S THREE HOURS!!
GO GET HIM!
WOBBLE WOBBLE
I'M QUITE IMPRESSED.
THEY SHOULD BE AT PEAK EXHAUSTION... THEY'RE MOVING ONLY BY SHEER WILL!!
IF THEY ACCOMPLISH THIS FEAT, THEIR RENEWED CONFIDENCE WILL ALLOW THEM...
...TO IMPROVE EXPONENTIALLY. BUT THAT WOULD MEAN *MY* DEFEAT!!
AND I CAN *NEVER*...
...LET THAT HAPPEN!!
POW

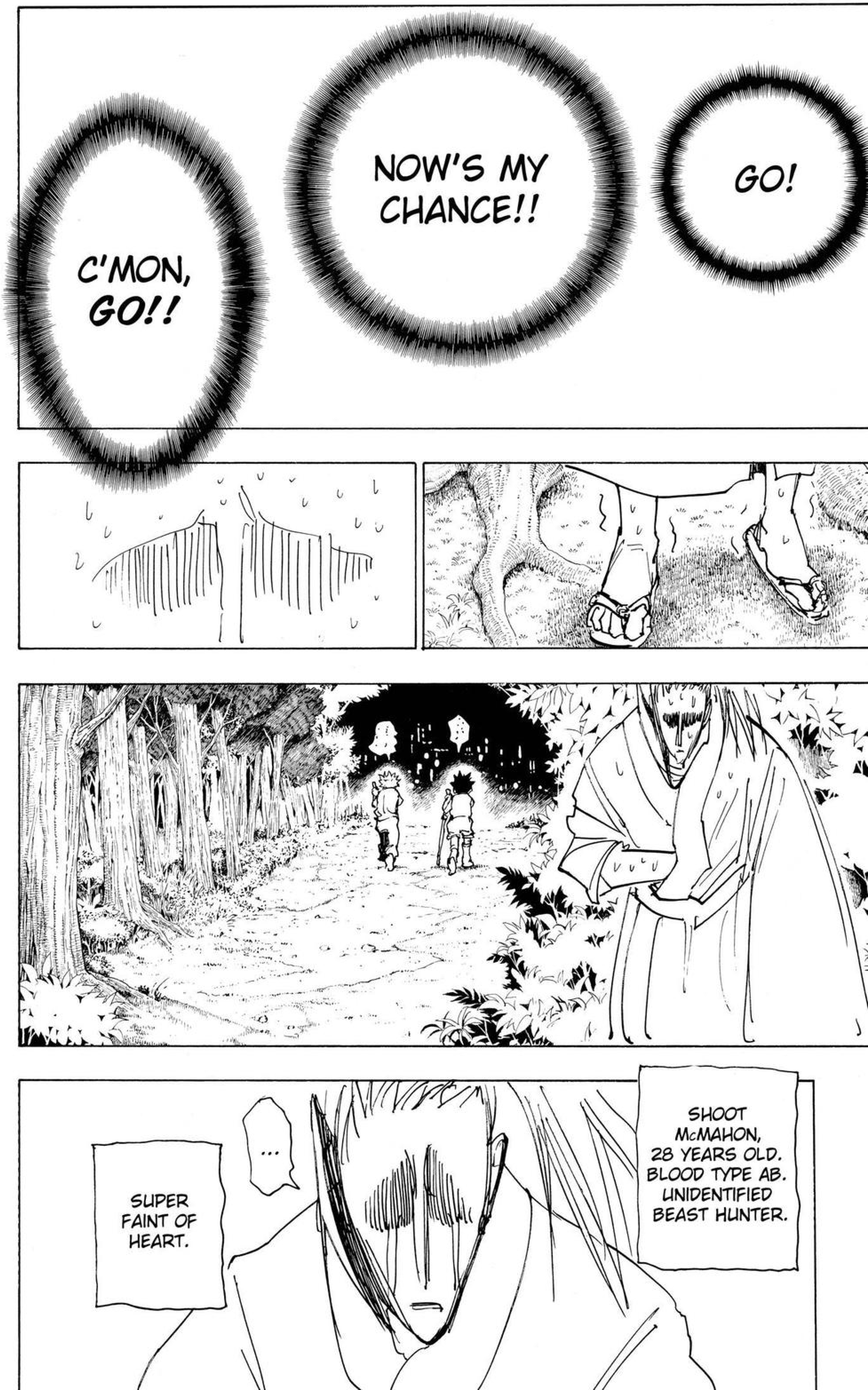

THAT ALL YOU'VE GOT?! HUH--?!
WITH KNUCKLE'S PERSONALITY, I'D SAY HE'S ALREADY BEEN WON OVER.
HE WON'T SELL ME OUT, BUT IT'S POSSIBLE HIS TONGUE WILL SLIP.
BEFORE THAT HAPPENS...
I AMBUSH THEM ON THEIR WAY HOME...

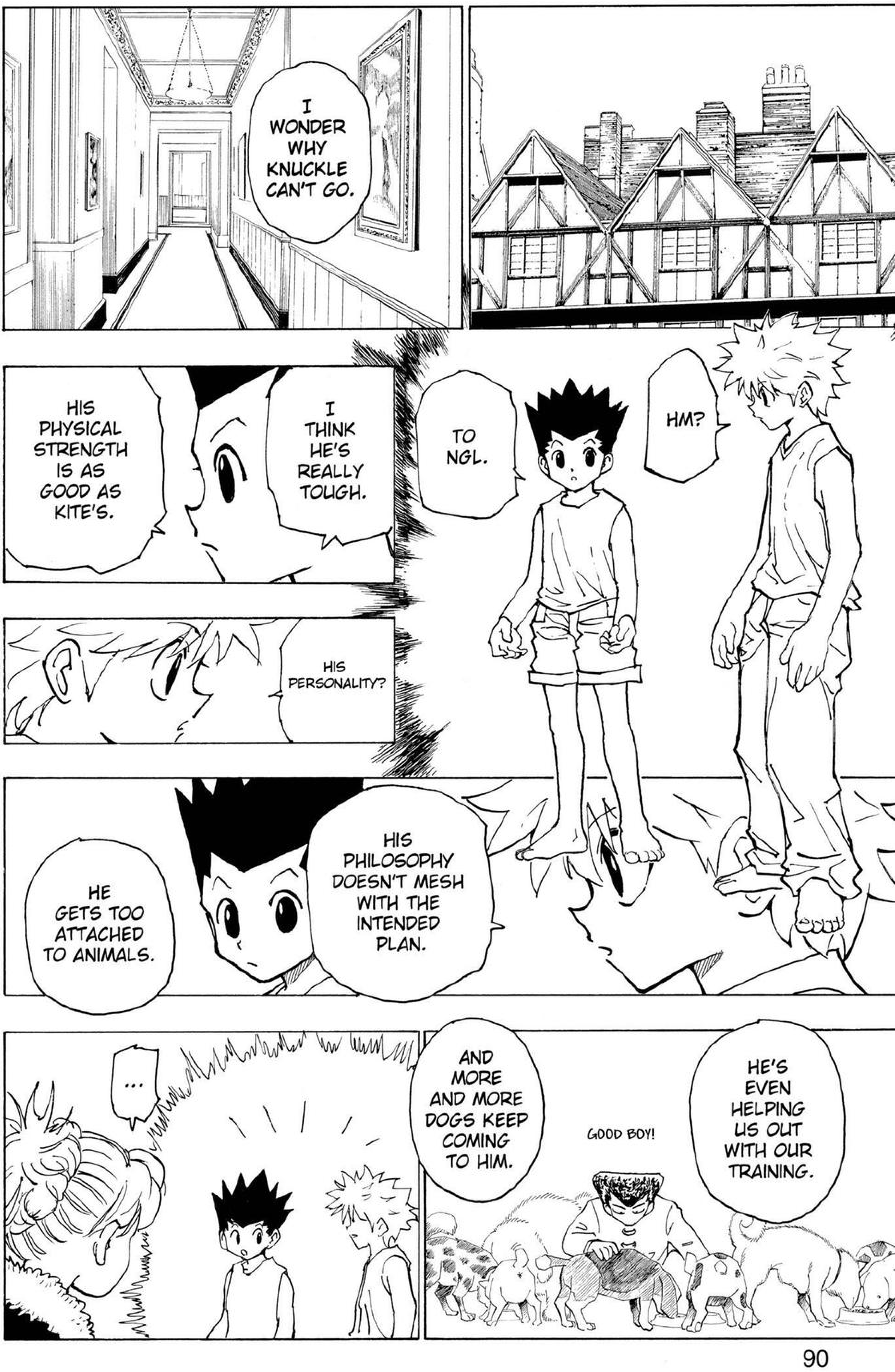


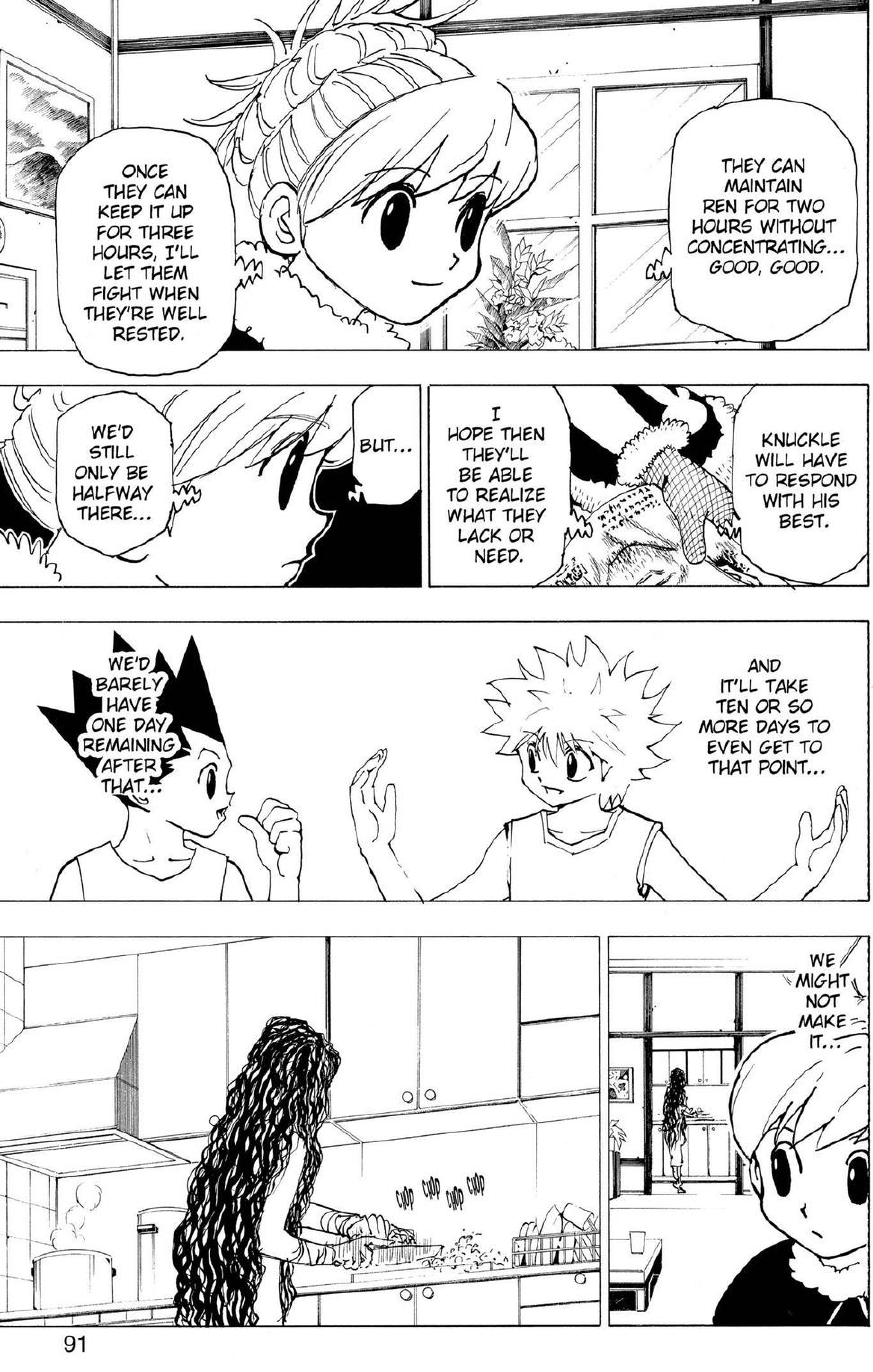

HFF
HFF
WE HAVE NO CHANCE LIKE THIS…
KNUCKLE ISN'T EVEN USING HALF OF HIS STRENGTH.
BUT WE MUST KEEP GOING…!
YEAH.
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
NOBODY ELSE IN SIGHT!!
THIS IS MY WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY…!!

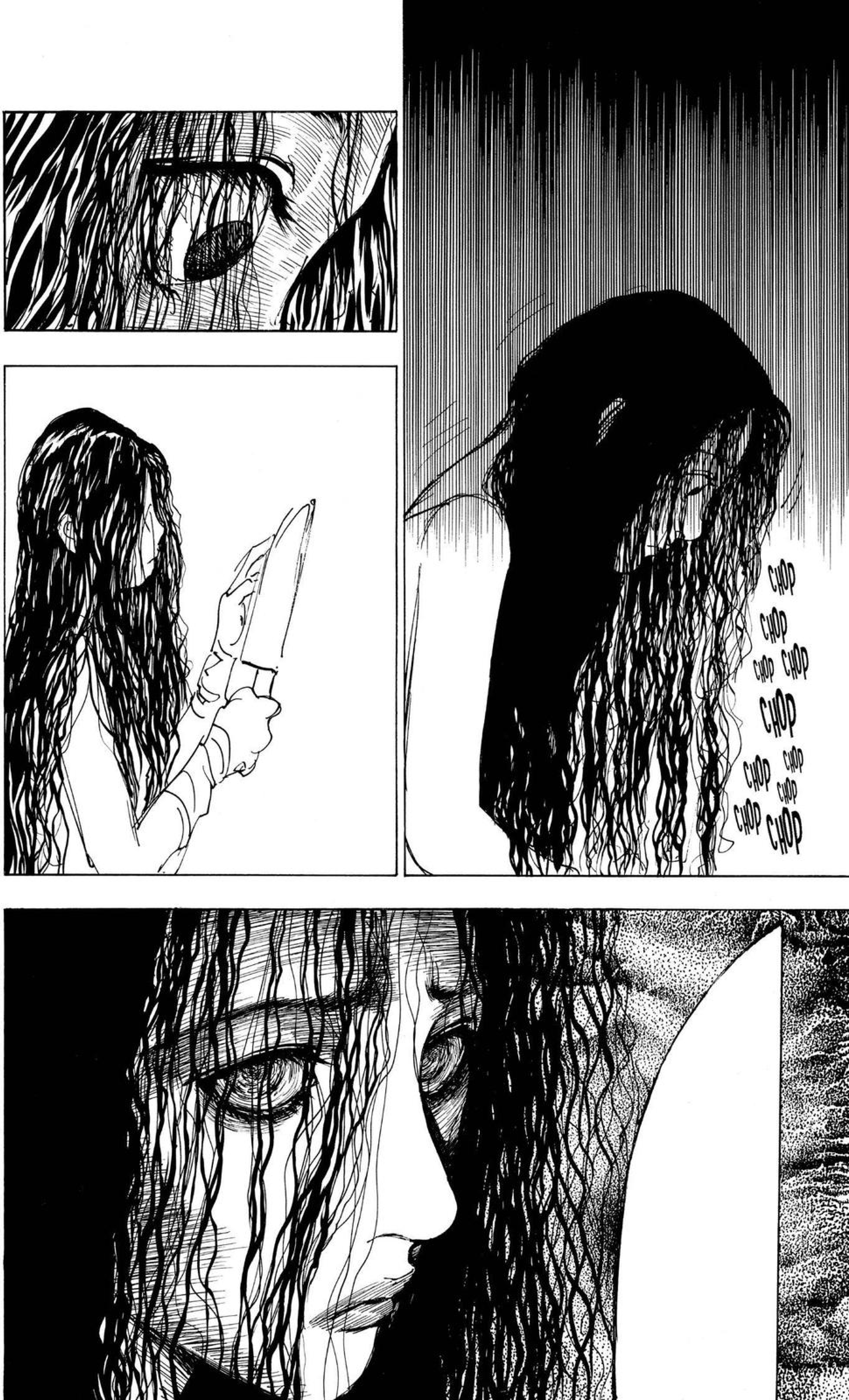
Chapter 205: Time Remaining

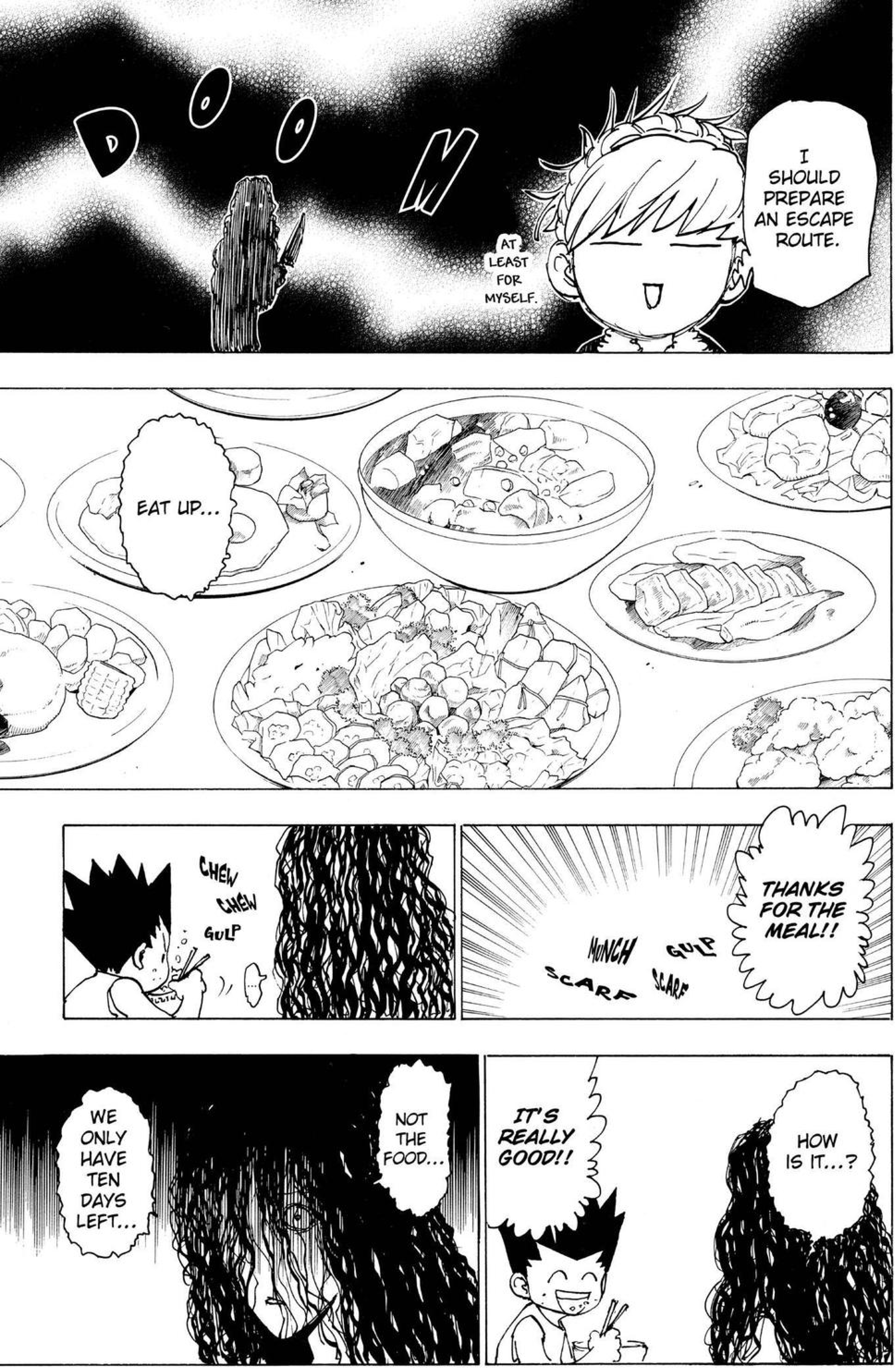

SHF
TP
SHUDDER
SHUDDER
SHAKE
SHAKE

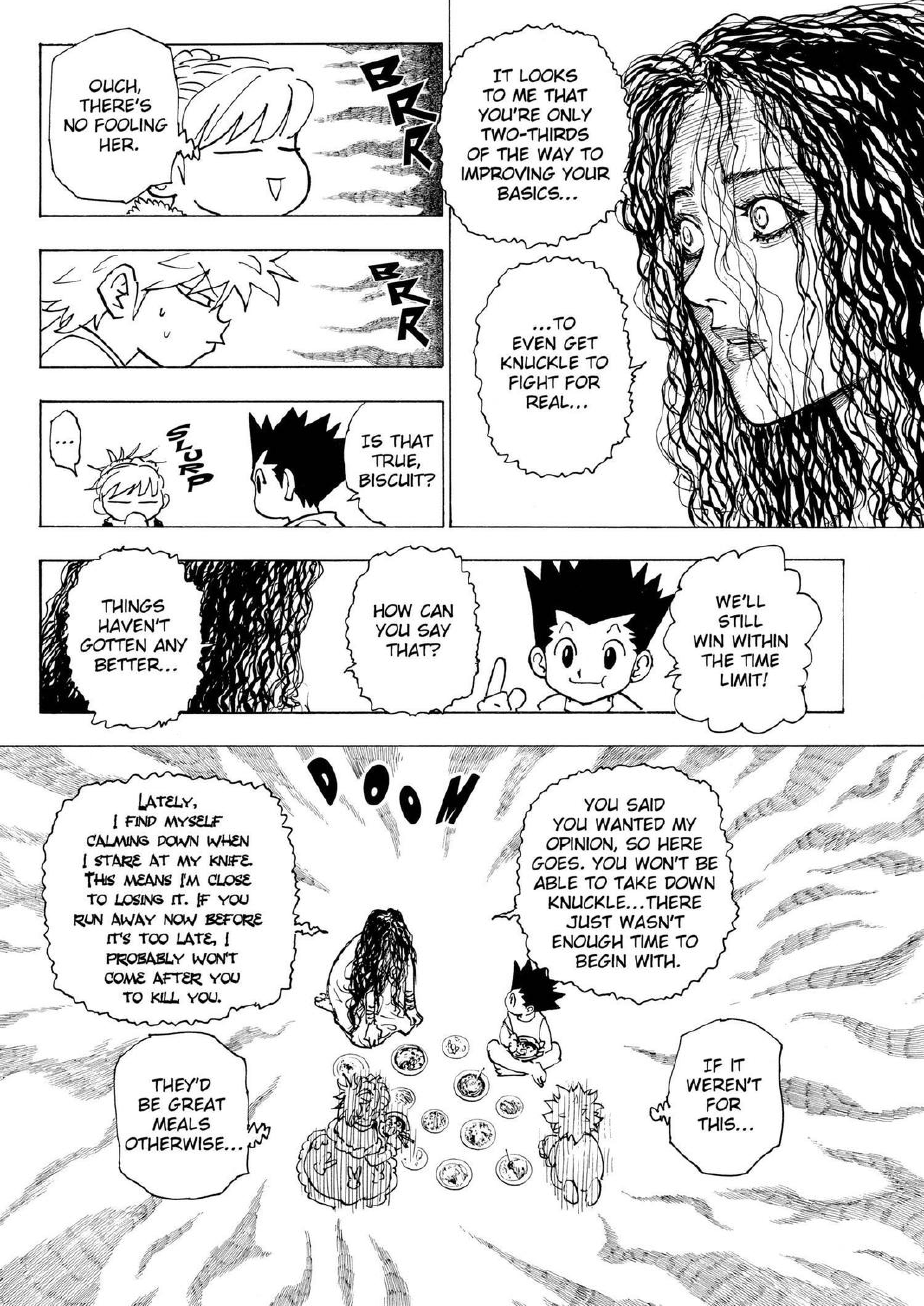

GO!
NOW'S MY CHANCE!!
C'MON, GO!!
...
...
SHOOT McMAHON, 28 YEARS OLD. BLOOD TYPE AB. UNIDENTIFIED BEAST HUNTER.
...
SUPER FAINT OF HEART.

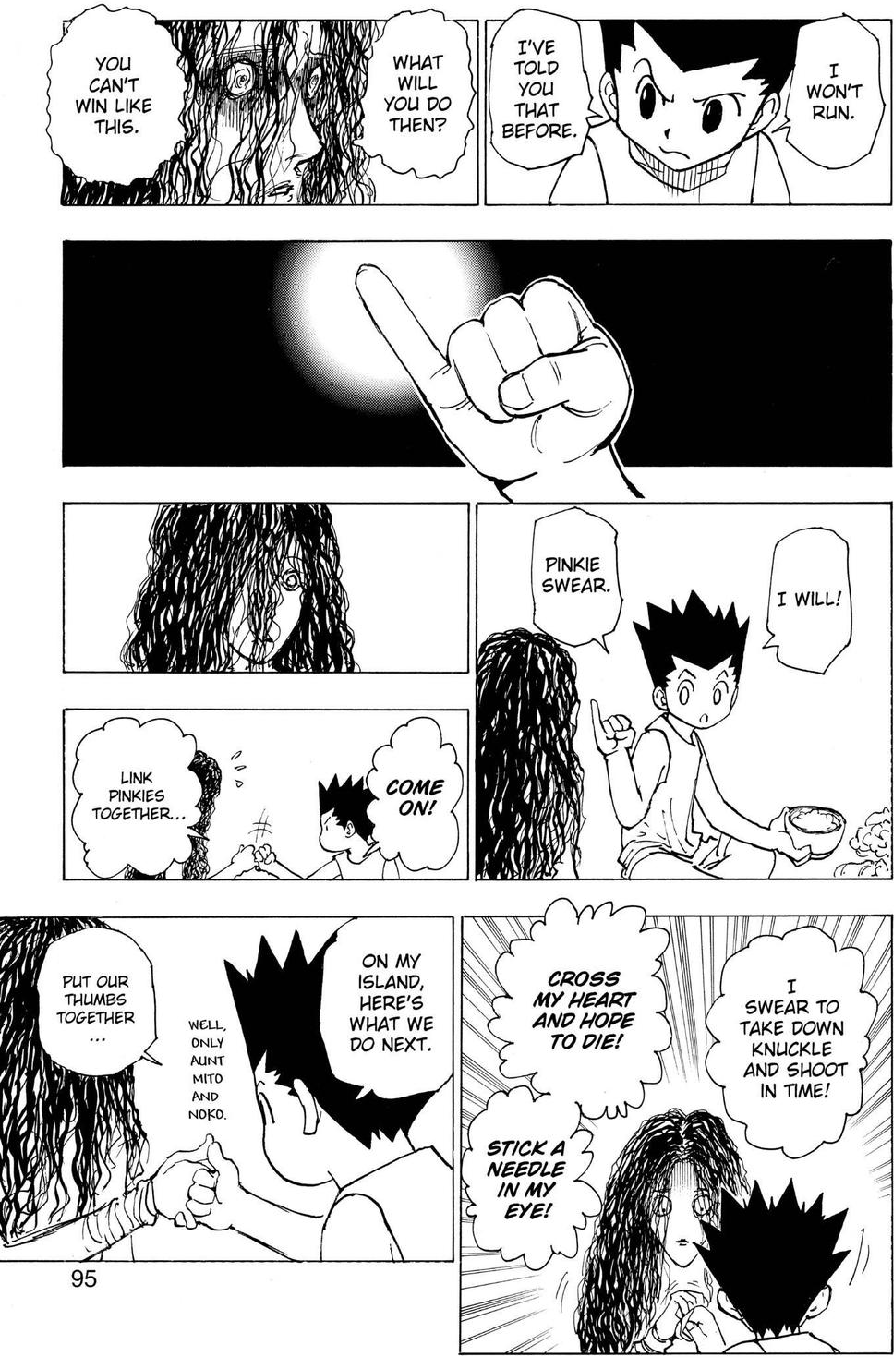

I WONDER WHY KNUCKLE CAN'T GO.
HM?
TO NGL.
I THINK HE'S REALLY TOUGH.
HIS PHYSICAL STRENGTH IS AS GOOD AS KITE'S.
HIS PERSONALITY?
HIS PHILOSOPHY DOESN'T MESH WITH THE INTENDED PLAN.
HE GETS TOO ATTACHED TO ANIMALS.
HE'S EVEN HELPING US OUT WITH OUR TRAINING.
AND MORE AND MORE DOGS KEEP COMING TO HIM.
GOOD BOY!
...

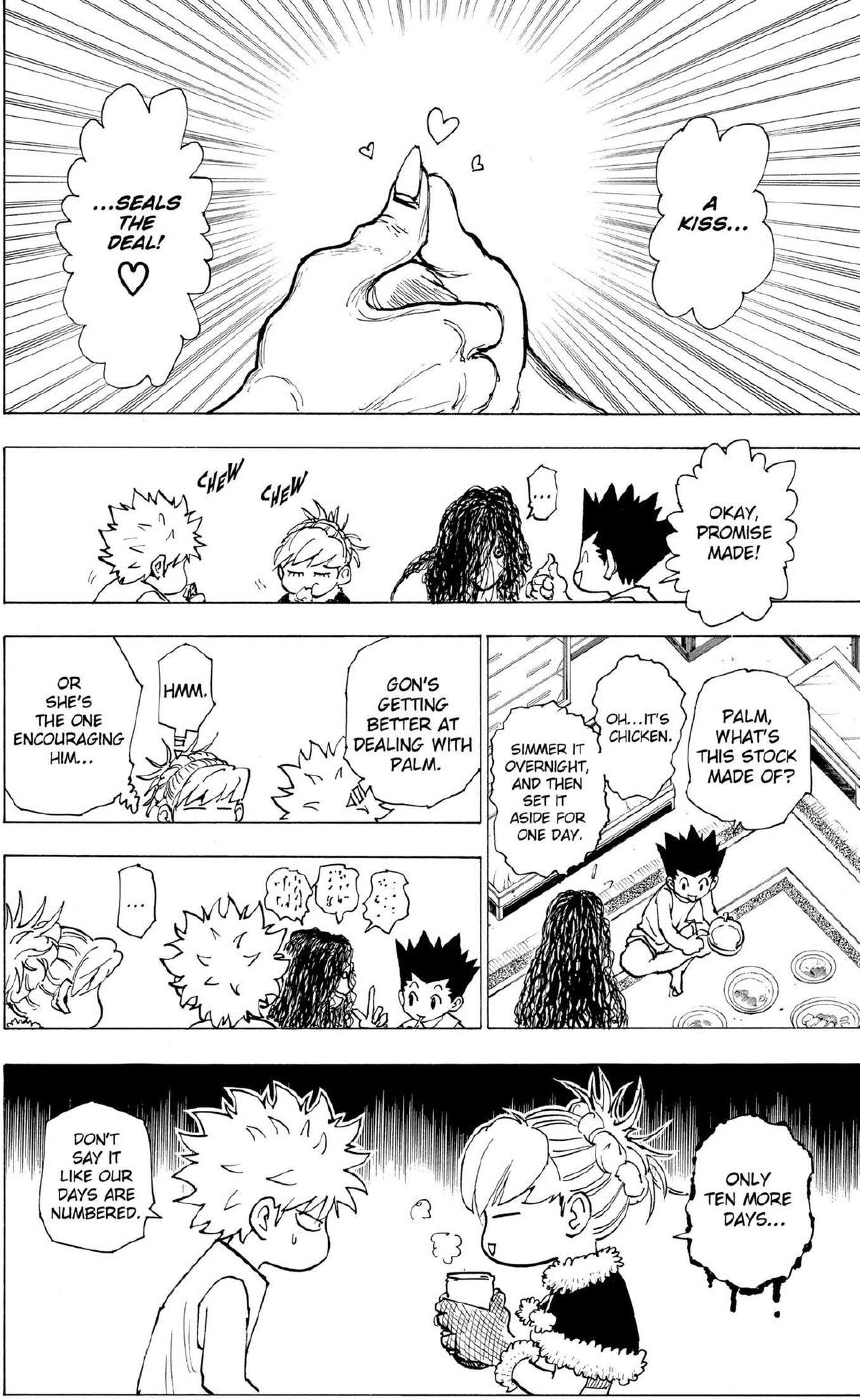

THEY CAN MAINTAIN REN FOR TWO HOURS WITHOUT CONCENTRATING... GOOD, GOOD.
ONCE THEY CAN KEEP IT UP FOR THREE HOURS, I'LL LET THEM FIGHT WHEN THEY'RE WELL RESTED.
KNUCKLE WILL HAVE TO RESPOND WITH HIS BEST.
I HOPE THEN THEY'LL BE ABLE TO REALIZE WHAT THEY LACK OR NEED.
BUT...
WE'D STILL ONLY BE HALFWAY THERE...
AND IT'LL TAKE TEN OR SO MORE DAYS TO EVEN GET TO THAT POINT...
WE'D BARELY HAVE ONE DAY REMAINING AFTER THAT...
WE MIGHT NOT MAKE IT...
CHOP CHOP CHOP CHOP

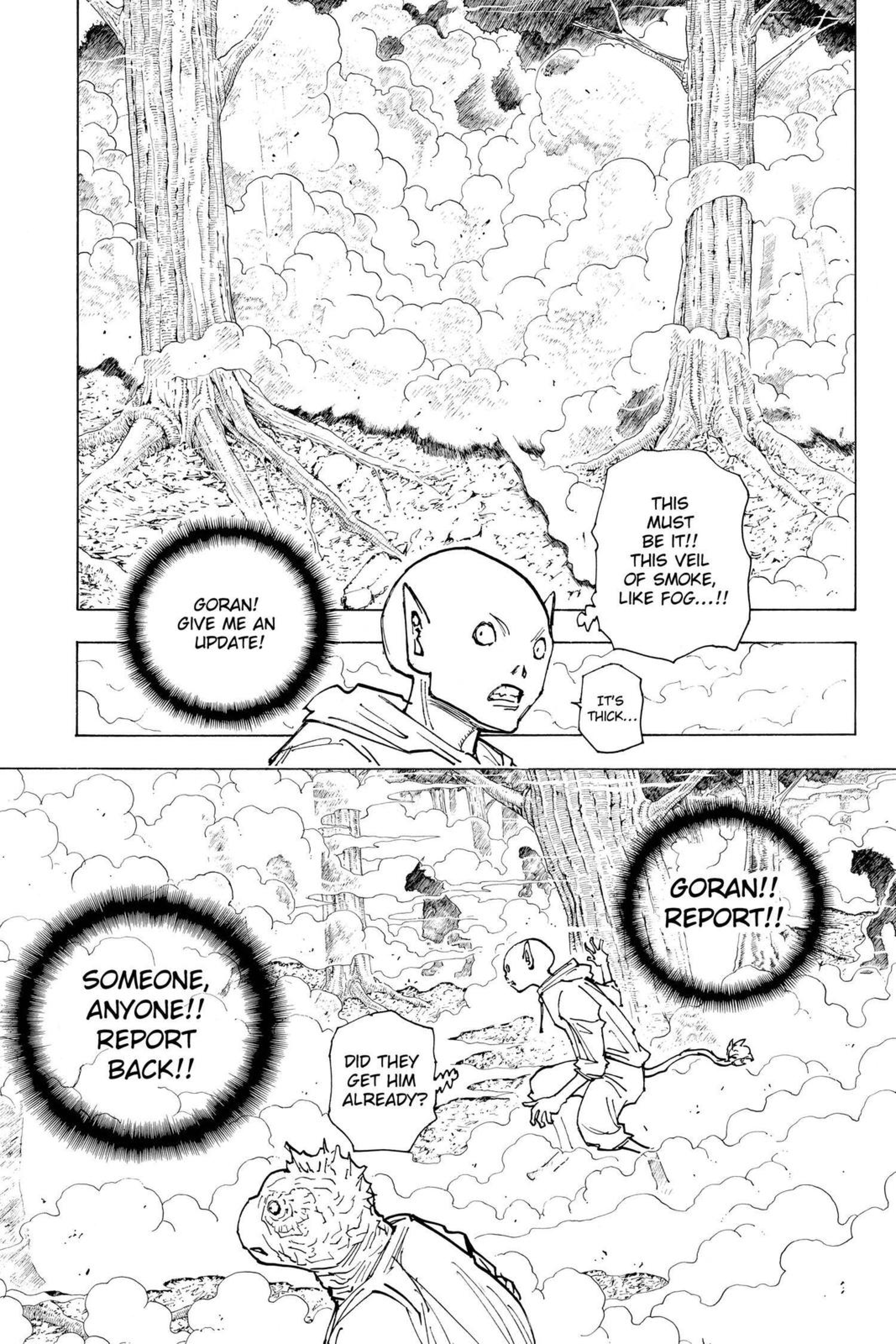

CHOP
CHOP
CHOP CHOP
CHOP
CHOP CHOP
CHOP
CHOP CHOP

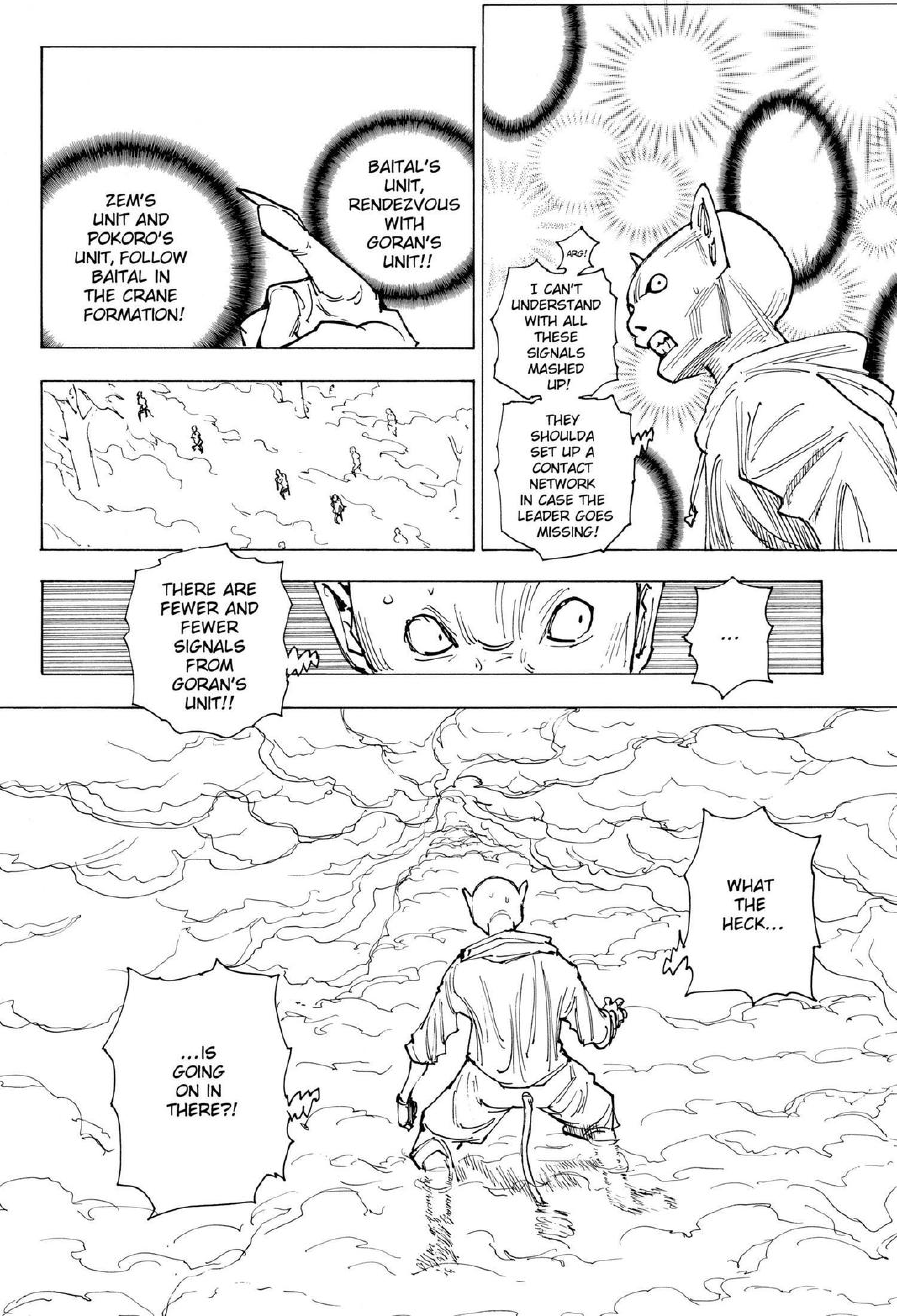

I SHOULD PREPARE AN ESCAPE ROUTE.
AT LEAST FOR MYSELF.
DOOOM
EAT UP...
THANKS FOR THE MEAL!!
MUNCH
GULP
SCARF
SCARF
CHEW
CHEW
GULP
...
HOW IS IT...?
IT'S REALLY GOOD!!
NOT THE FOOD...
WE ONLY HAVE TEN DAYS LEFT...


IT LOOKS TO ME THAT YOU'RE ONLY TWO-THIRDS OF THE WAY TO IMPROVING YOUR BASICS...
...TO EVEN GET KNUCKLE TO FIGHT FOR REAL...
BRR
OUCH, THERE'S NO FOOLING HER.
BRR
IS THAT TRUE, BISCUIT?
SLURP
...
WE'LL STILL WIN WITHIN THE TIME LIMIT!
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?
THINGS HAVEN'T GOTTEN ANY BETTER...
YOU SAID YOU WANTED MY OPINION, SO HERE GOES. YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO TAKE DOWN KNUCKLE...THERE JUST WASN'T ENOUGH TIME TO BEGIN WITH.
DOOM
LATELY, I FIND MYSELF CALMING DOWN WHEN I STARE AT MY KNIFE. THIS MEANS I'M CLOSE TO LOSING IT. IF YOU RUN AWAY NOW BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE, I PROBABLY WON'T COME AFTER YOU TO KILL YOU.
IF IT WEREN'T FOR THIS...
THEY'D BE GREAT MEALS OTHERWISE...

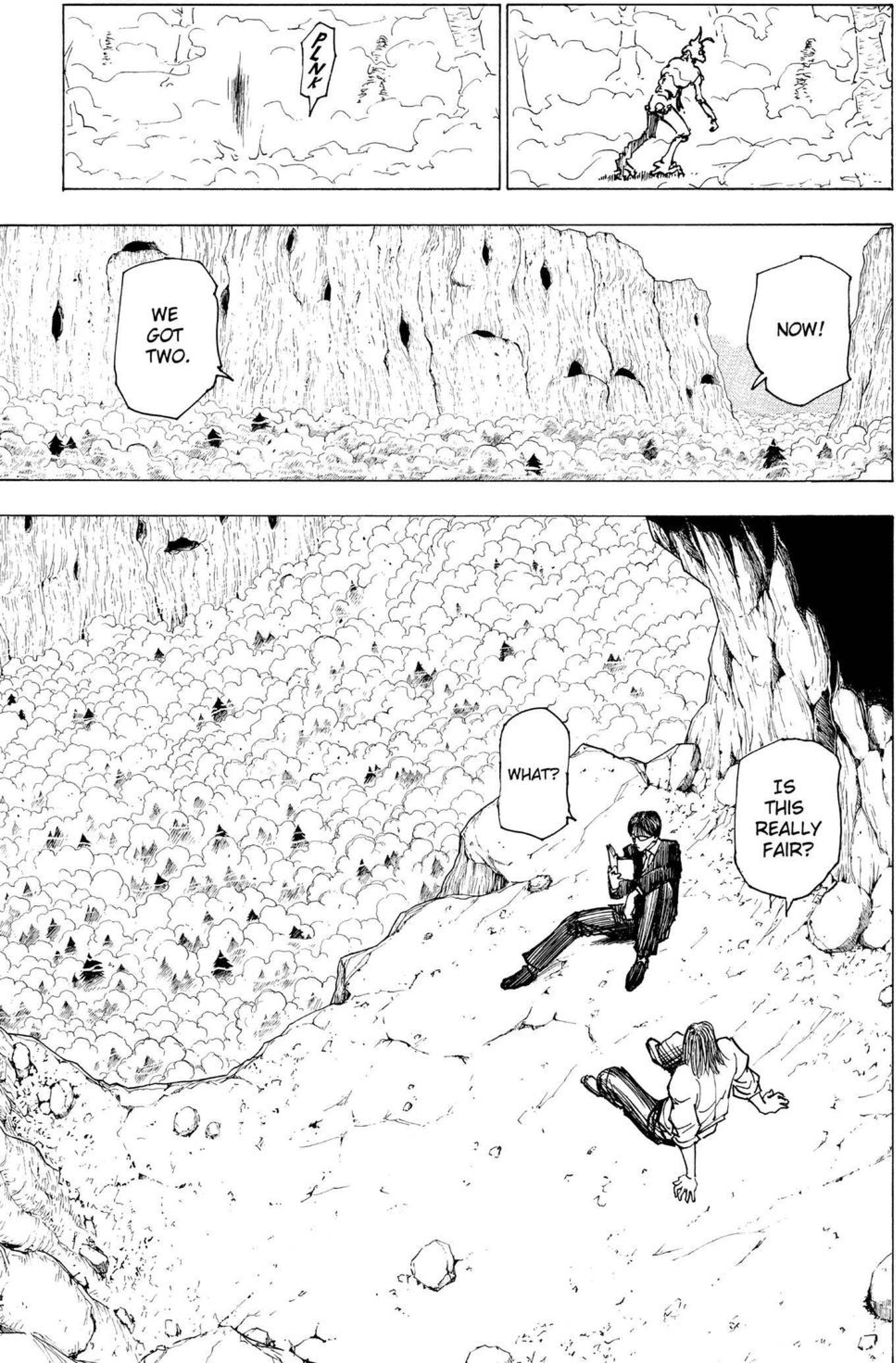

I WON'T RUN.
I'VE TOLD YOU THAT BEFORE.
WHAT WILL YOU DO THEN?
YOU CAN'T WIN LIKE THIS.
I WILL!
PINKIE SWEAR.
COME ON!
LINK PINKIES TOGETHER...
I SWEAR TO TAKE DOWN KNUCKLE AND SHOOT IN TIME!
CROSS MY HEART AND HOPE TO DIE!
STICK A NEEDLE IN MY EYE!
ON MY ISLAND, HERE'S WHAT WE DO NEXT.
WELL, ONLY AUNT MITO AND NOKO.
PUT OUR THUMBS TOGETHER ...

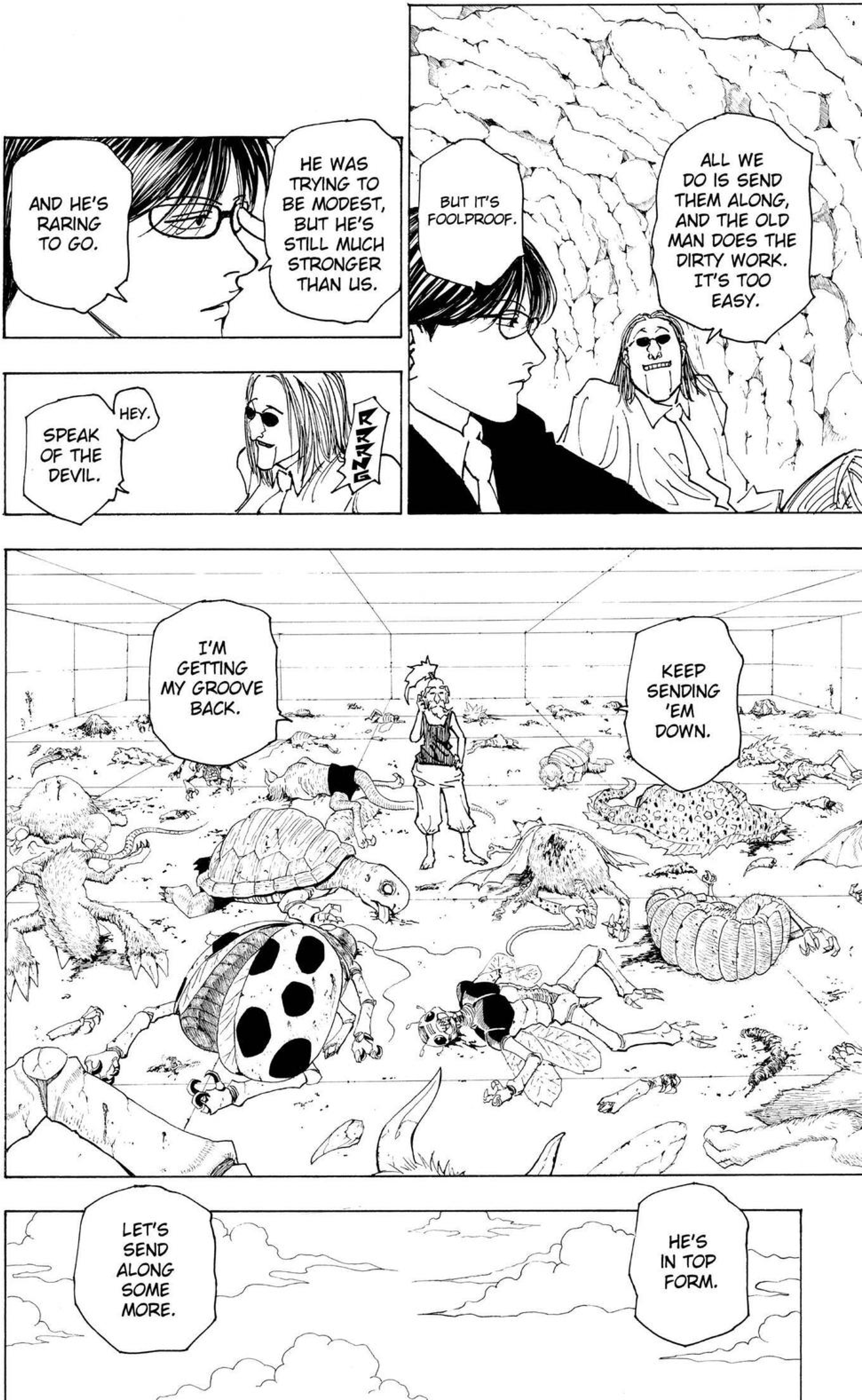

A KISS...
...SEALS THE DEAL! ♡
OKAY, PROMISE MADE!
...
CHEW
CHEW
PALM, WHAT'S THIS STOCK MADE OF?
OH...IT'S CHICKEN.
SIMMER IT OVERNIGHT, AND THEN SET IT ASIDE FOR ONE DAY.
GON'S GETTING BETTER AT DEALING WITH PALM.
HMM.
OR SHE'S THE ONE ENCOURAGING HIM...
...
ONLY TEN MORE DAYS...
DON'T SAY IT LIKE OUR DAYS ARE NUMBERED.

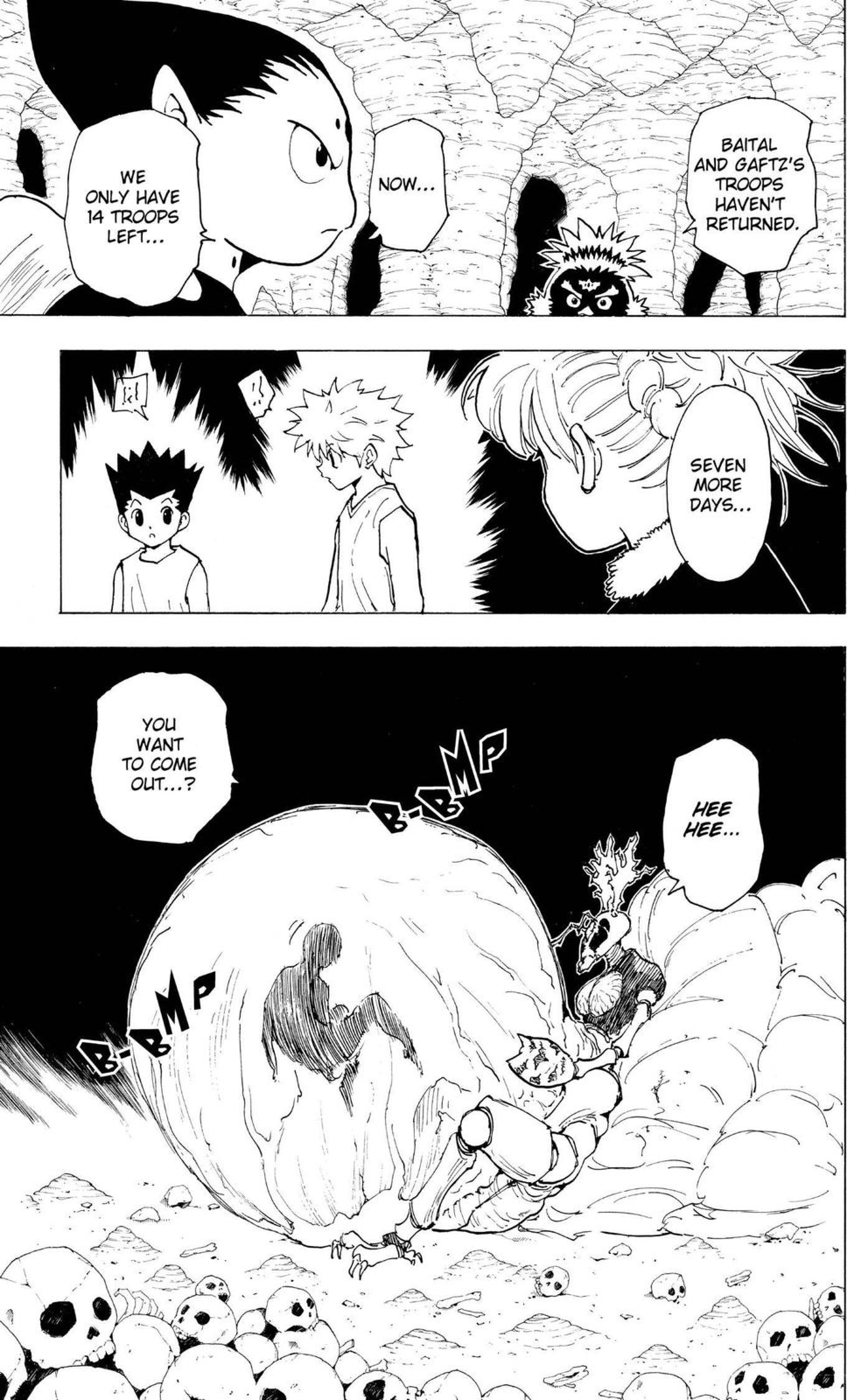

THIS MUST BE IT!! THIS VEIL OF SMOKE, LIKE FOG...!!
GORAN! GIVE ME AN UPDATE!
IT'S THICK...
GORAN!! REPORT!!
DID THEY GET HIM ALREADY?
SOMEONE, ANYONE!! REPORT BACK!!

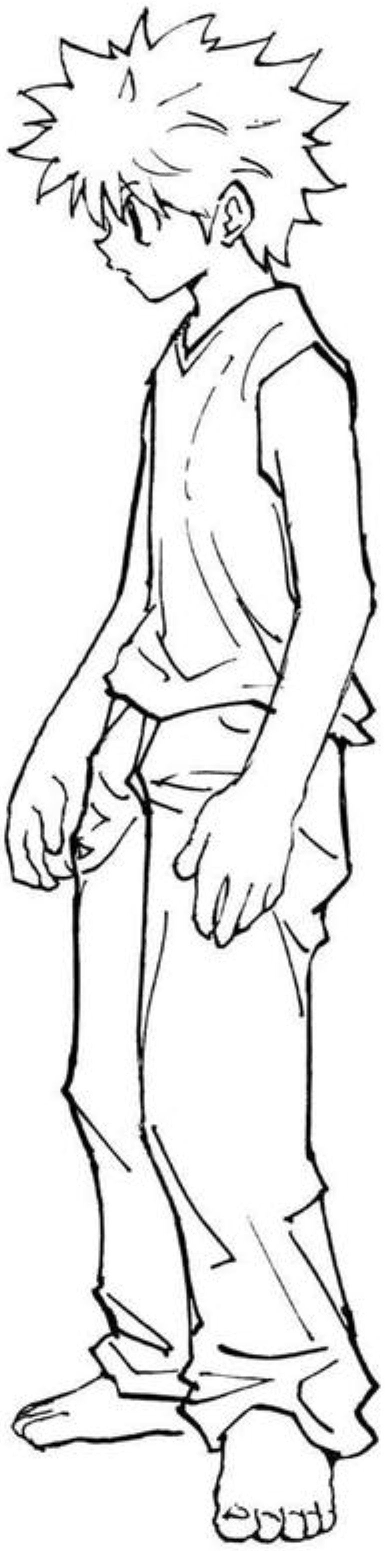

ARG!
I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WITH ALL THESE SIGNALS MASHED UP!
THEY SHOULDA SET UP A CONTACT NETWORK IN CASE THE LEADER GOES MISSING!
BAITAL'S UNIT, RENDEZVOUS WITH GORAN'S UNIT!!
ZEM'S UNIT AND POKORO'S UNIT, FOLLOW BAITAL IN THE CRANE FORMATION!
...
THERE ARE FEWER AND FEWER SIGNALS FROM GORAN'S UNIT!!
WHAT THE HECK...
...IS GOING ON IN THERE?!

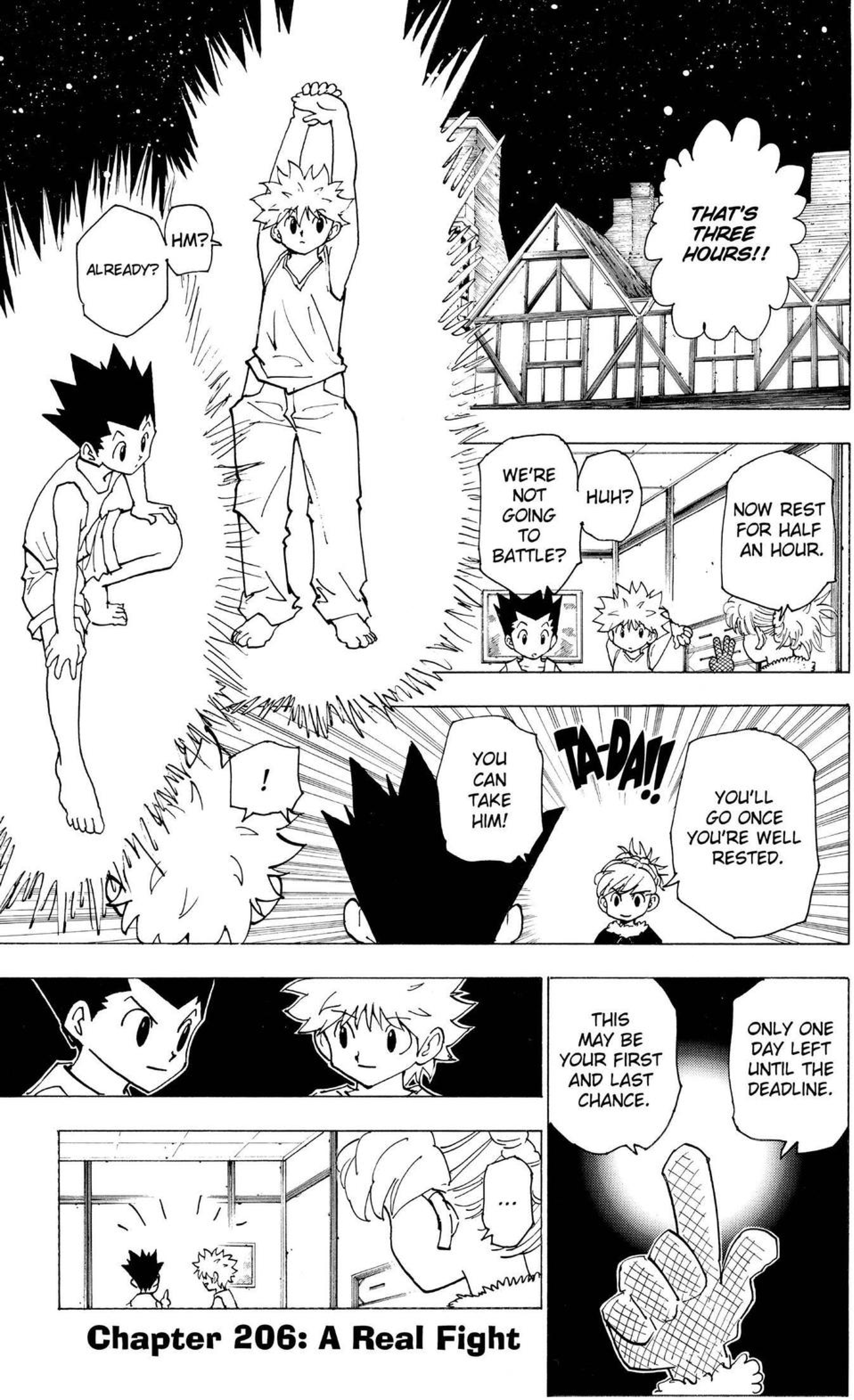
READ THIS WAY


PLNK
NOW!
WE GOT TWO.
IS THIS REALLY FAIR?
WHAT?

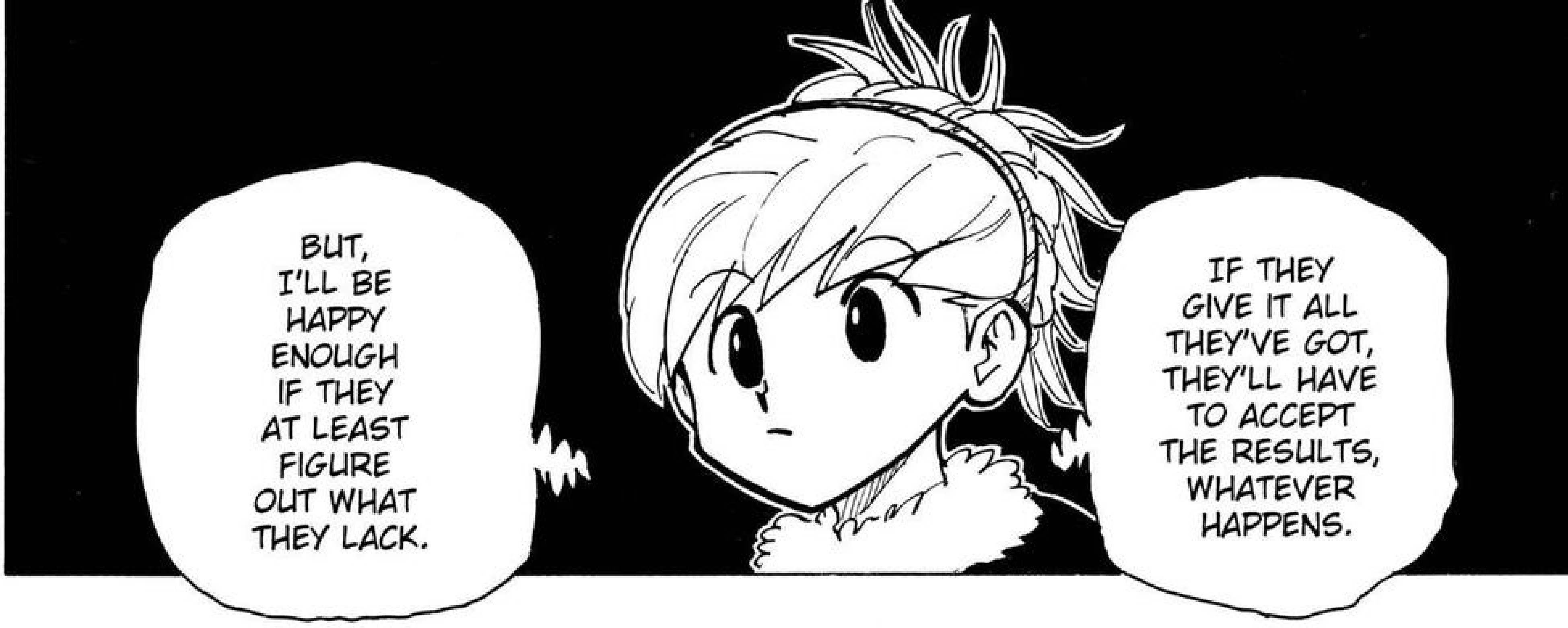

ALL WE DO IS SEND THEM ALONG, AND THE OLD MAN DOES THE DIRTY WORK. IT'S TOO EASY.
BUT IT'S FOOLPROOF.
HE WAS TRYING TO BE MODEST, BUT HE'S STILL MUCH STRONGER THAN US.
AND HE'S RARING TO GO.
RRRING
HEY.
SPEAK OF THE DEVIL.
KEEP SENDING 'EM DOWN.
I'M GETTING MY GROOVE BACK.
HE'S IN TOP FORM.
LET'S SEND ALONG SOME MORE.

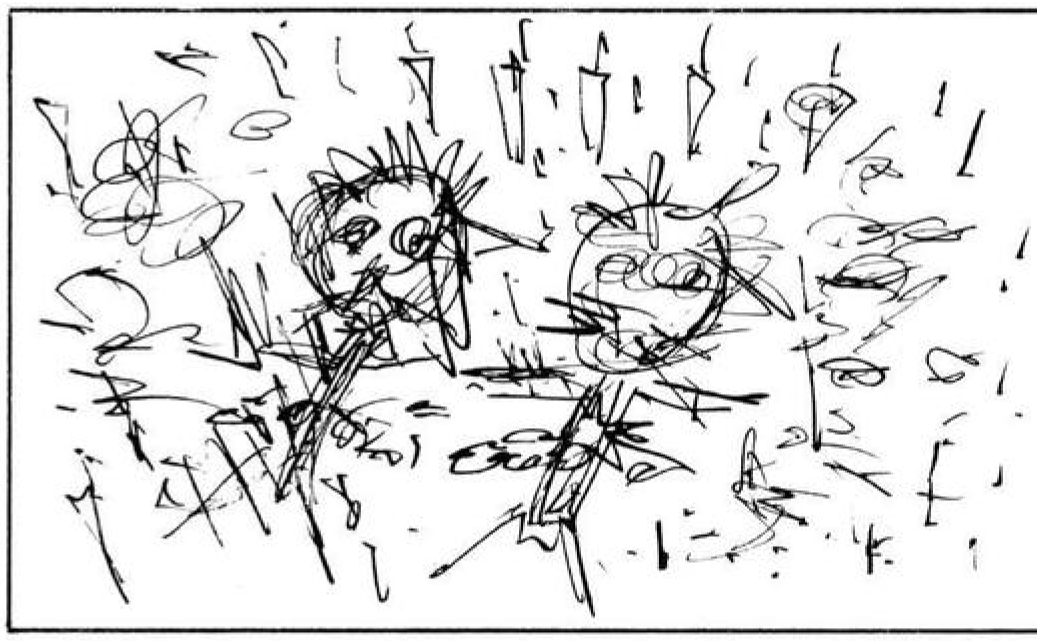

BAITAL AND GAFTZ'S TROOPS HAVEN'T RETURNED.
NOW...
WE ONLY HAVE 14 TROOPS LEFT...
SEVEN MORE DAYS...
!?
!!
HEE HEE...
B-BMP
YOU WANT TO COME OUT...?
B-BMP

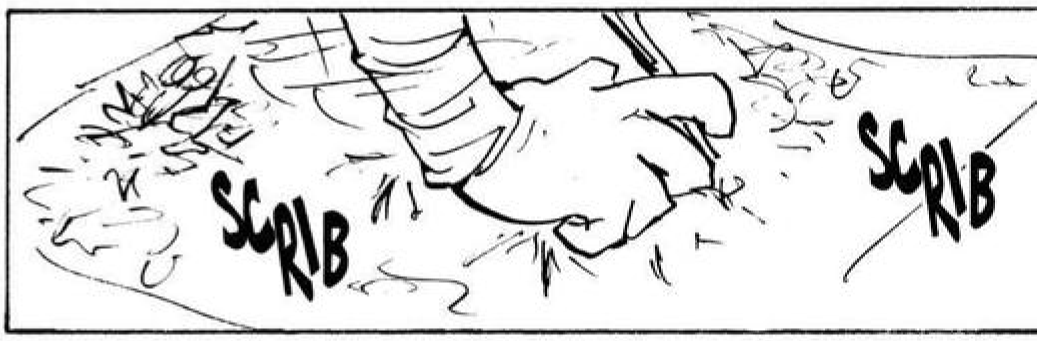


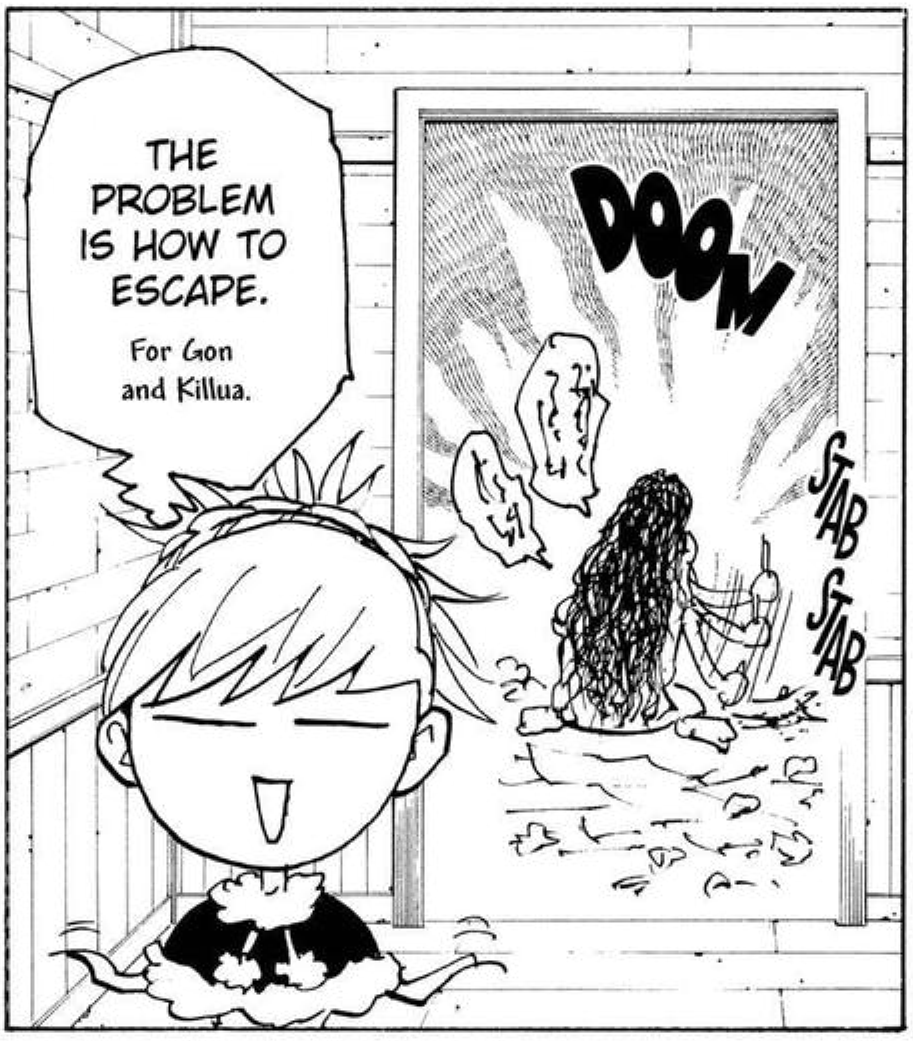

THAT'S THREE HOURS!!
HM?
ALREADY?
NOW REST FOR HALF AN HOUR.
HUH?
WE'RE NOT GOING TO BATTLE?
YOU'LL GO ONCE YOU'RE WELL RESTED.
TA-DA!!
YOU CAN TAKE HIM!
!
ONLY ONE DAY LEFT UNTIL THE DEADLINE.
THIS MAY BE YOUR FIRST AND LAST CHANCE.
...

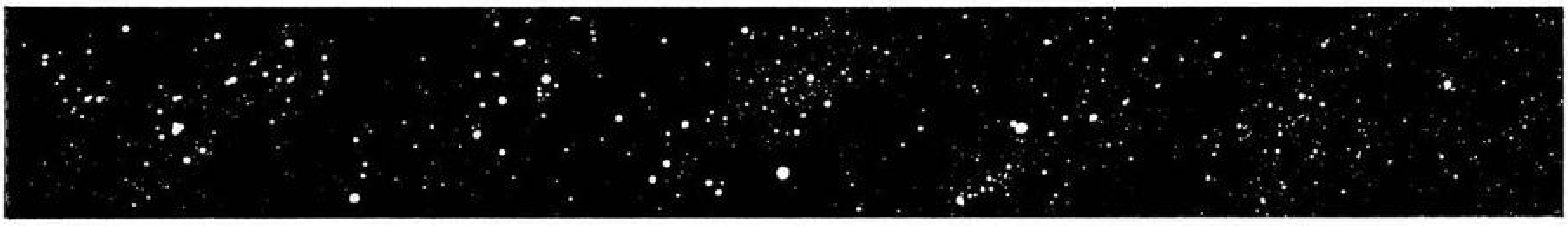
Chapter 206: A Real Fight

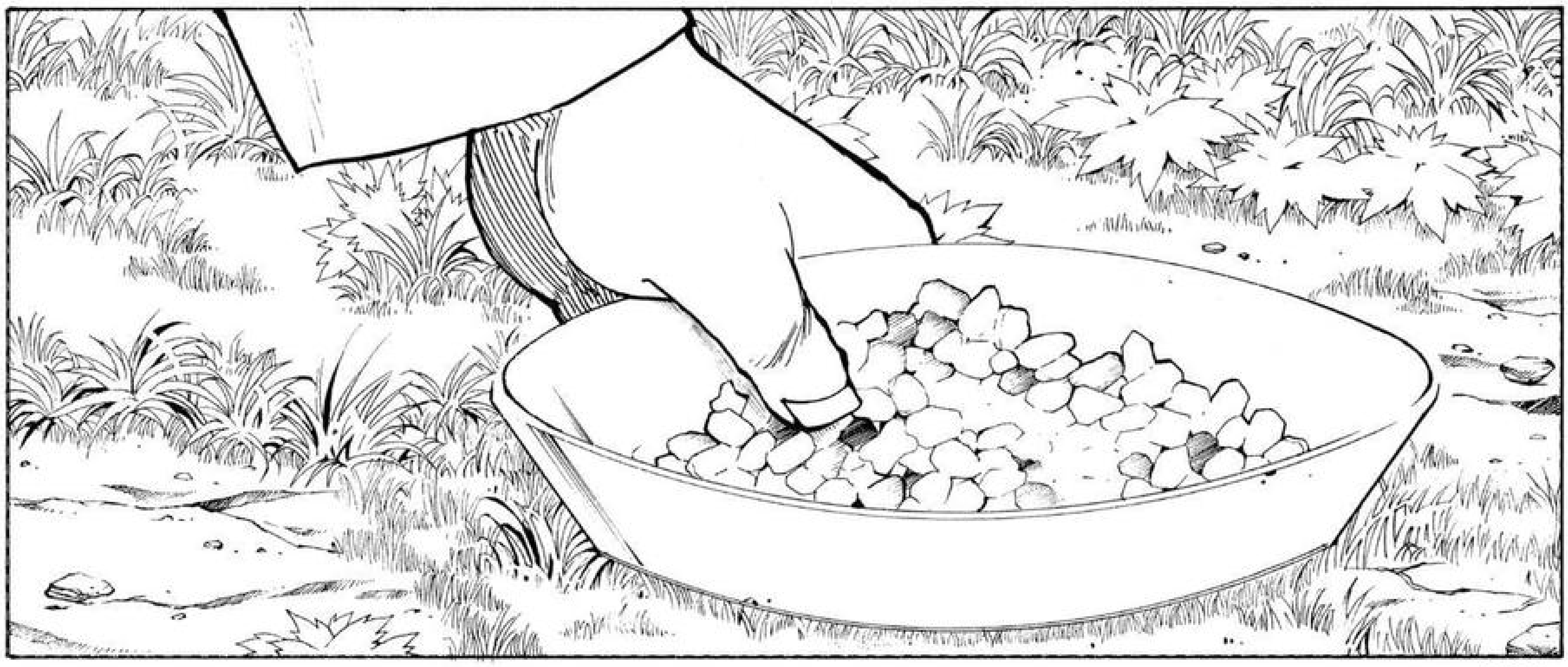

IF THEY GIVE IT ALL THEY'VE GOT, THEY'LL HAVE TO ACCEPT THE RESULTS, WHATEVER HAPPENS.
BUT, I'LL BE HAPPY ENOUGH IF THEY AT LEAST FIGURE OUT WHAT THEY LACK.

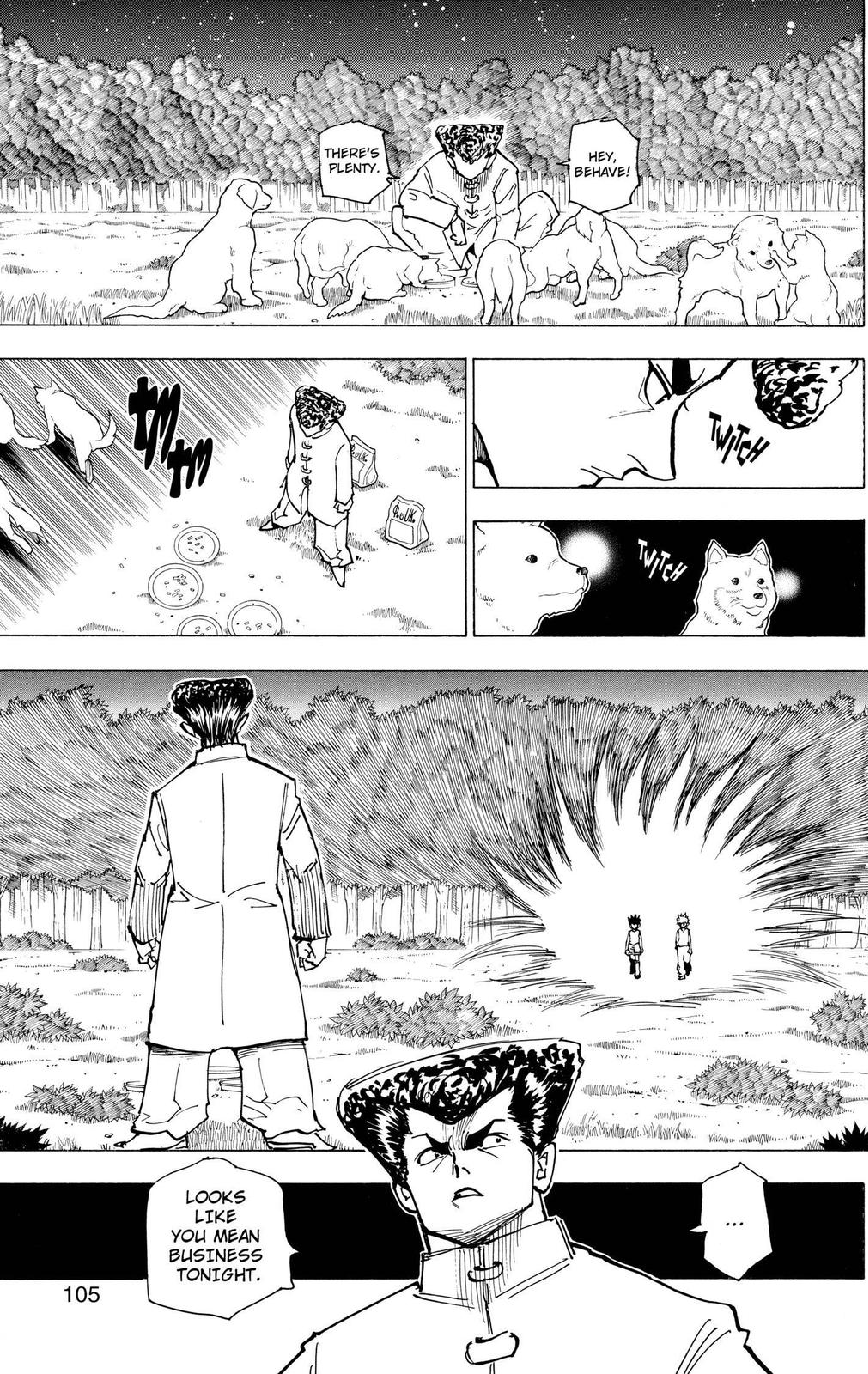



SCRIB
SCRIB


DOOM
STAB
STAB
THE PROBLEM IS HOW TO ESCAPE.
For Gon and Killua.

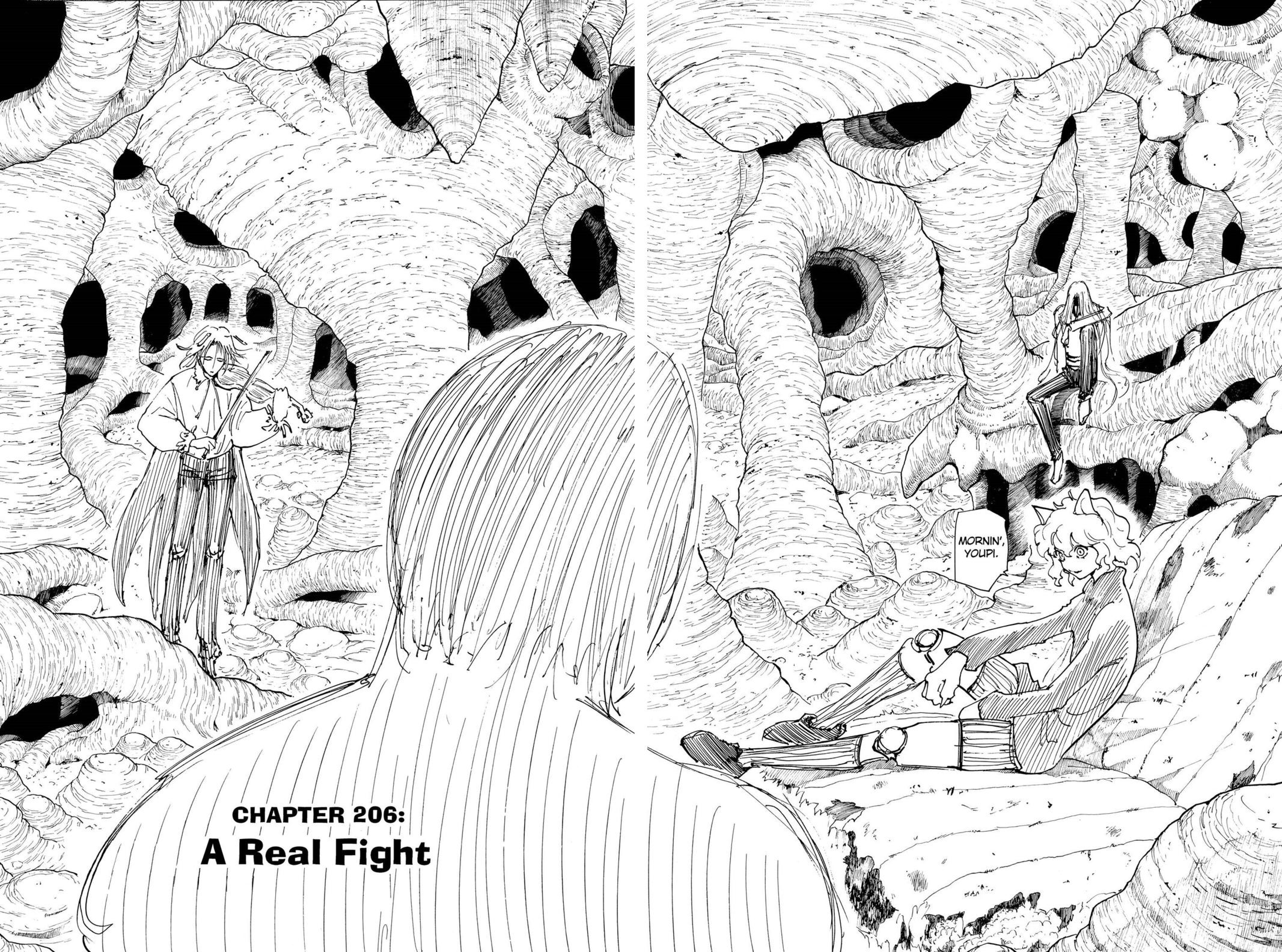




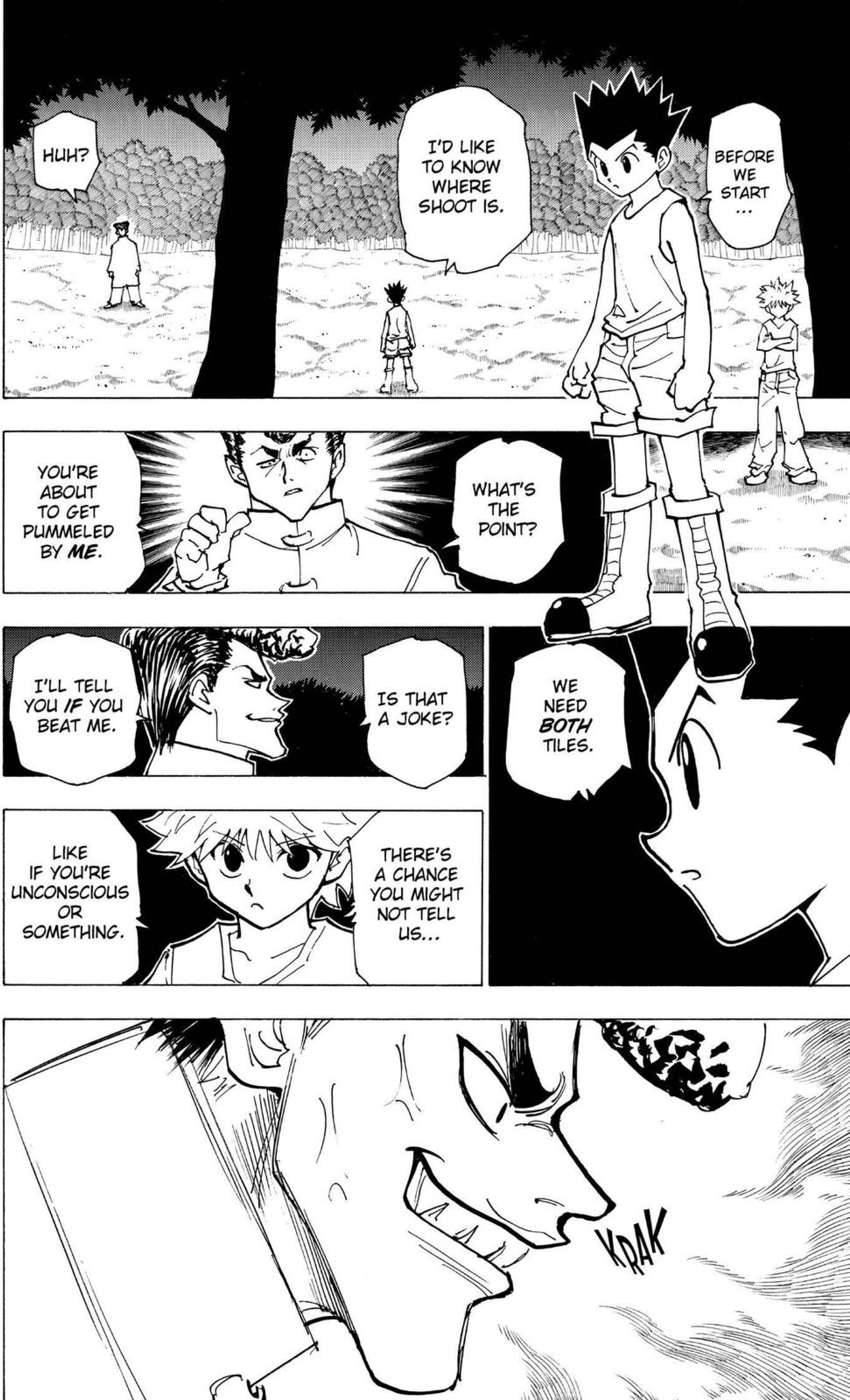

HEY, BEHAVE!
THERE'S PLENTY.
TWITCH
TWITCH
...
LOOKS LIKE YOU MEAN BUSINESS TONIGHT.

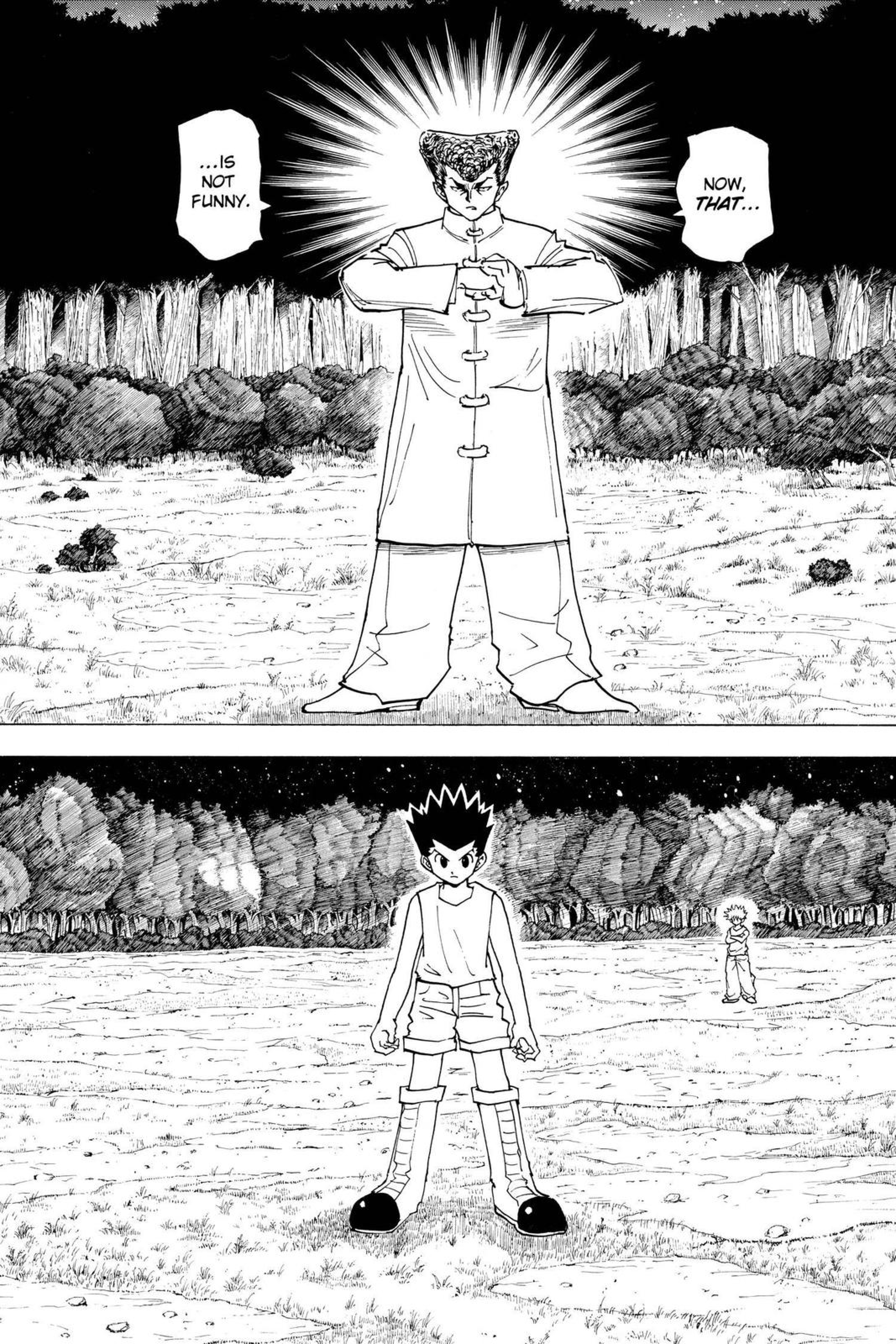
CHAPTER 206:

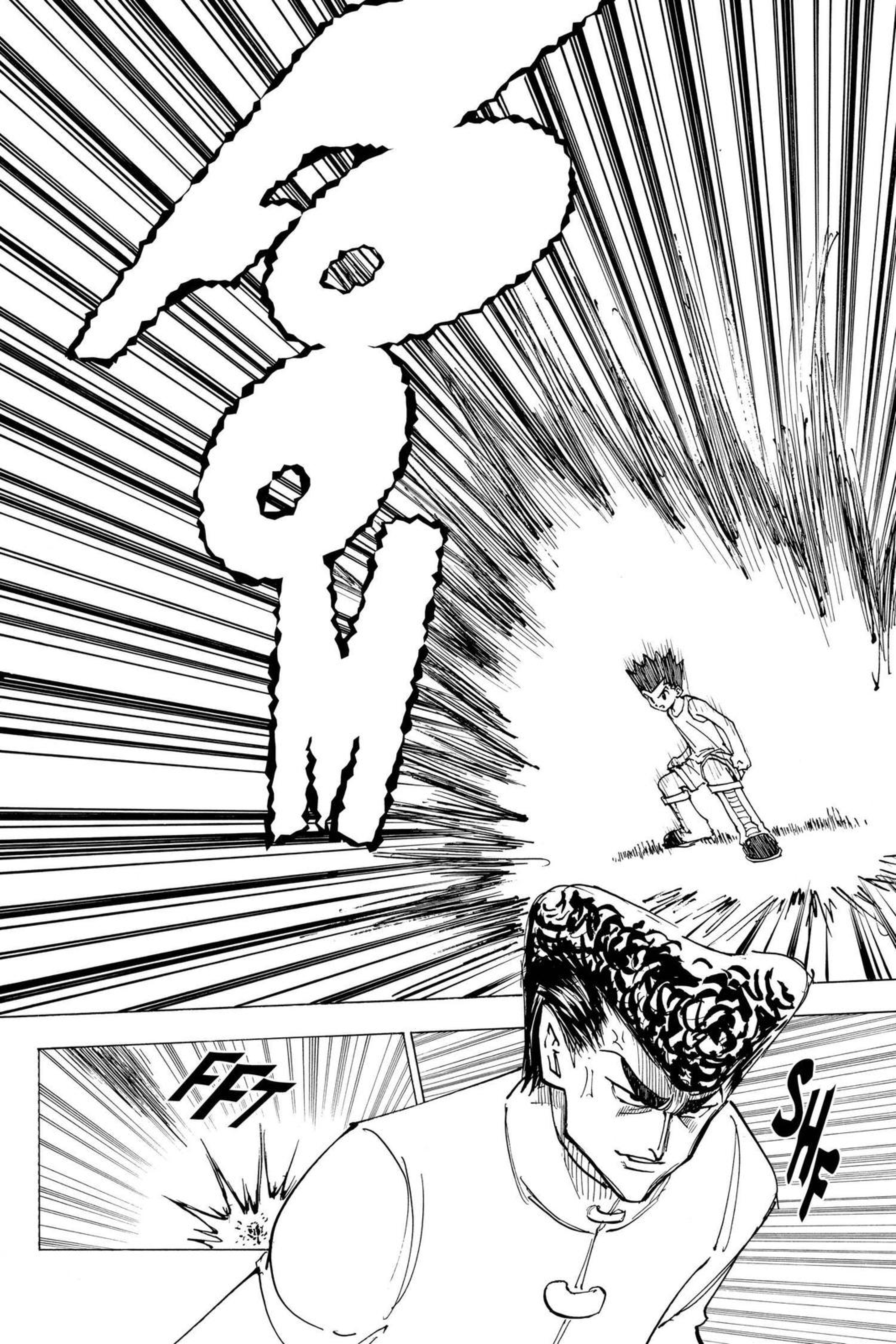
A Real Fight

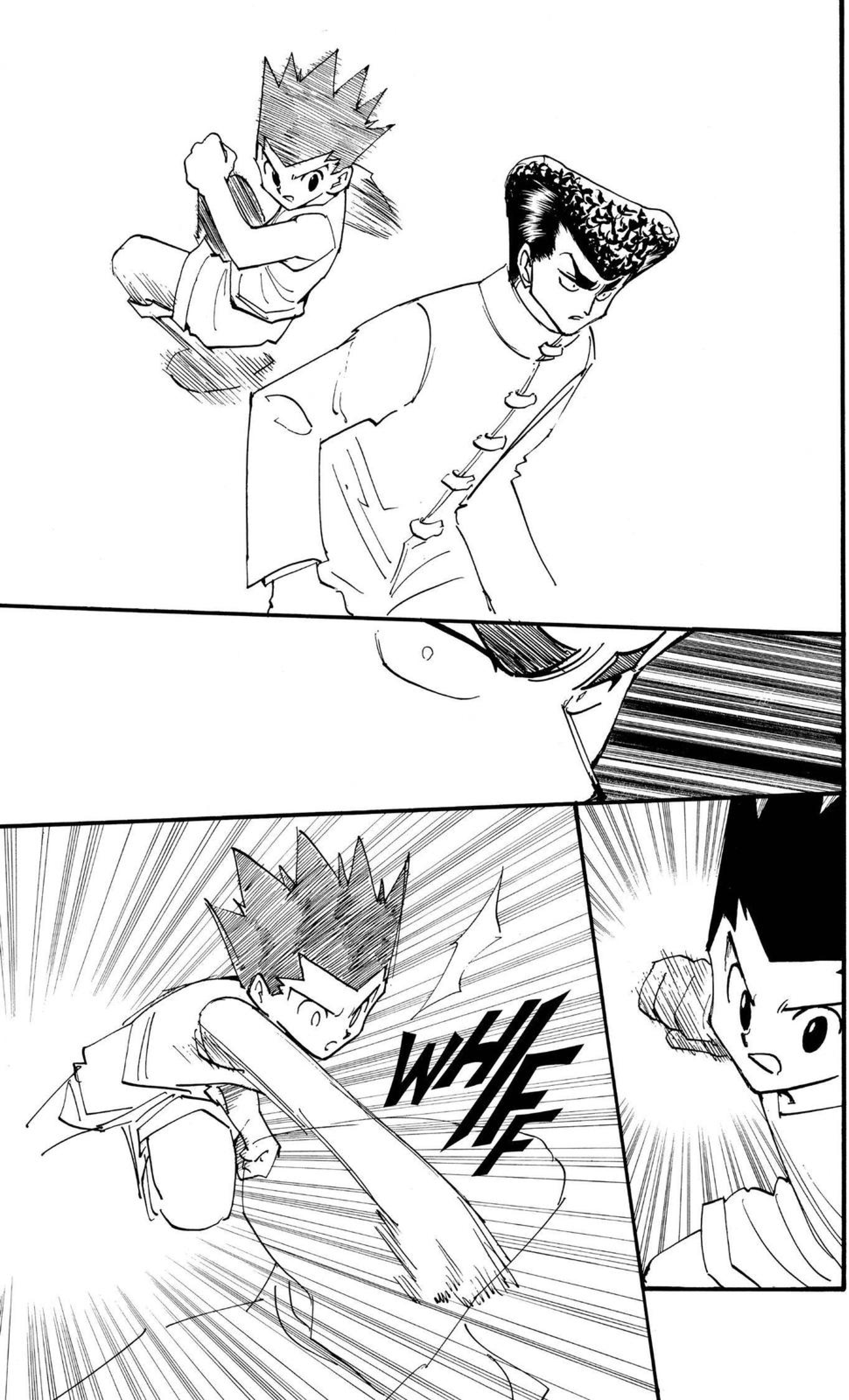


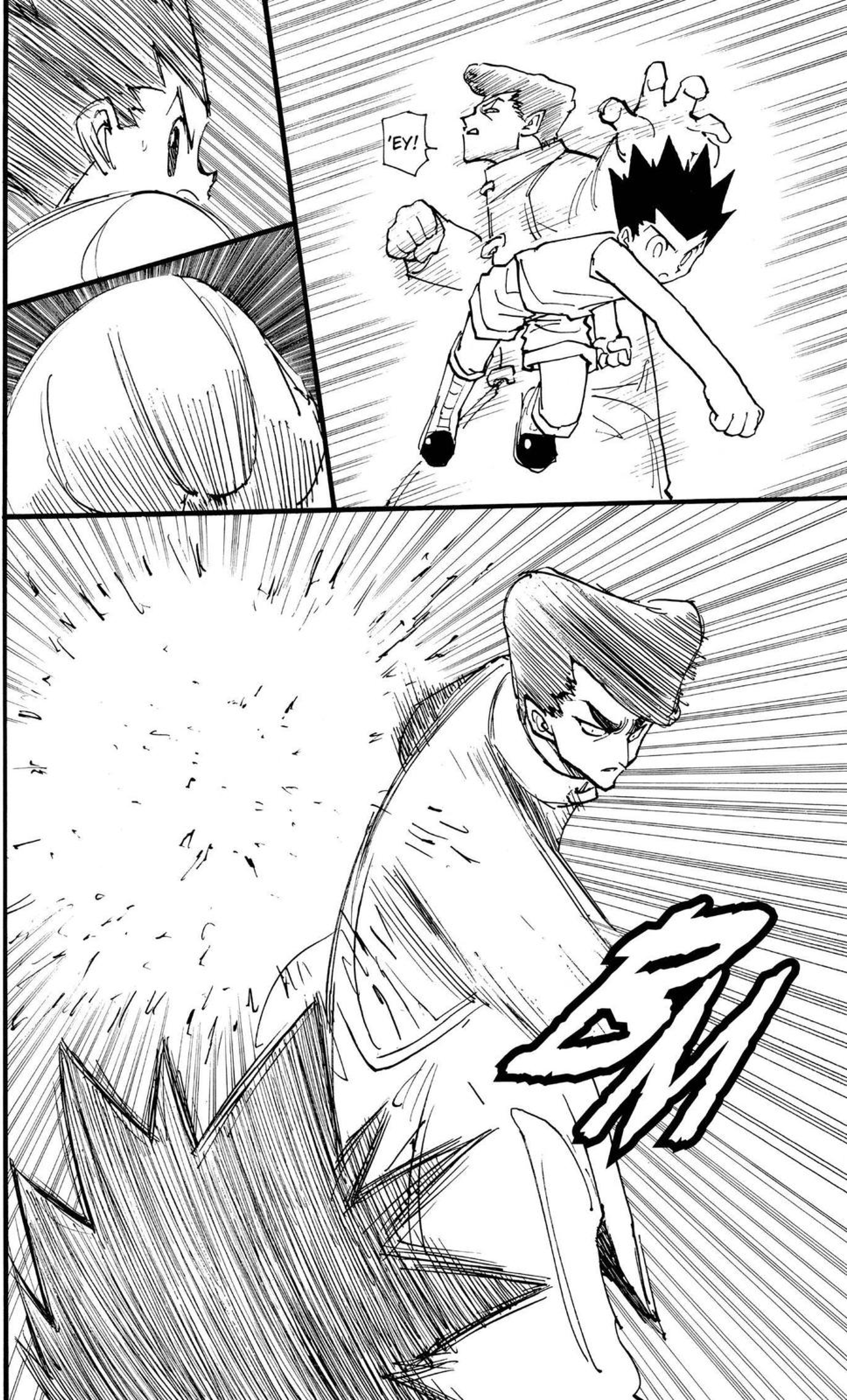
MORNIN', YOUPI.

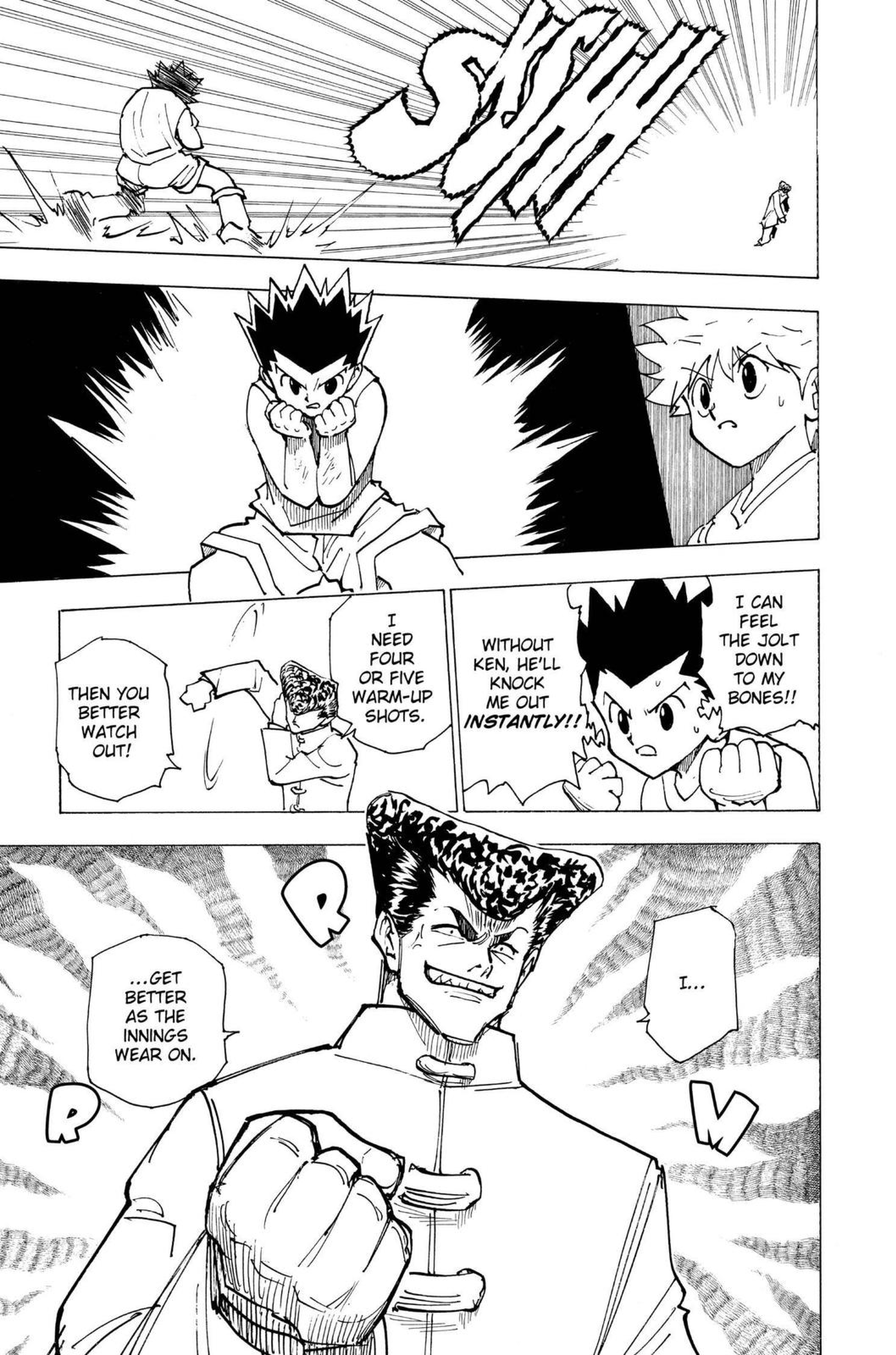

BEFORE WE START …
I'D LIKE TO KNOW WHERE SHOOT IS.
HUH?
WHAT'S THE POINT?
YOU'RE ABOUT TO GET PUMMELED BY *ME*.
IS THAT A JOKE?
I'LL TELL YOU *IF* YOU BEAT ME.
WE NEED *BOTH* TILES.
THERE'S A CHANCE YOU MIGHT NOT TELL US…
LIKE IF YOU'RE UNCONSCIOUS OR SOMETHING.
KRAK

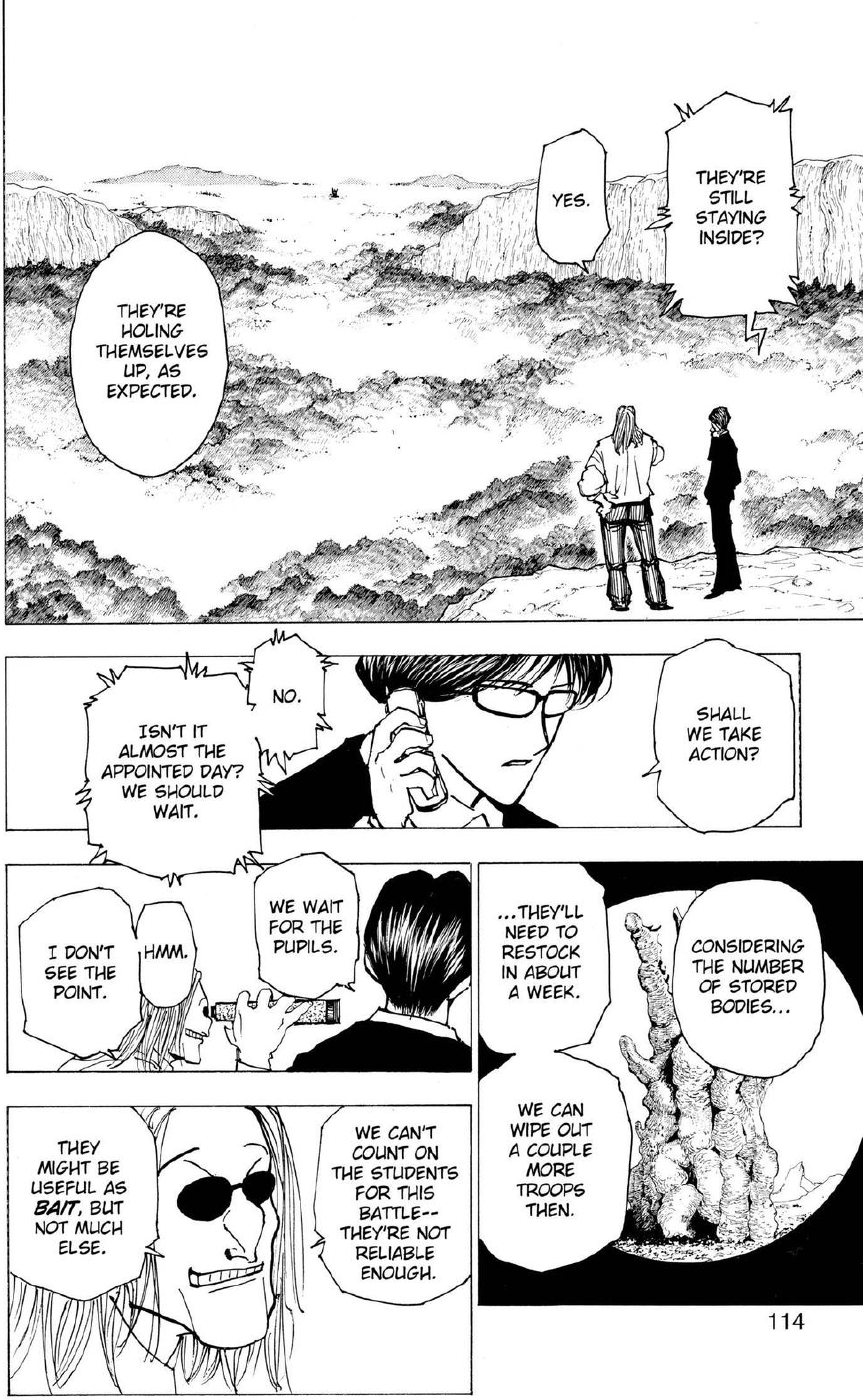

NOW, *THAT*...
...IS NOT FUNNY.

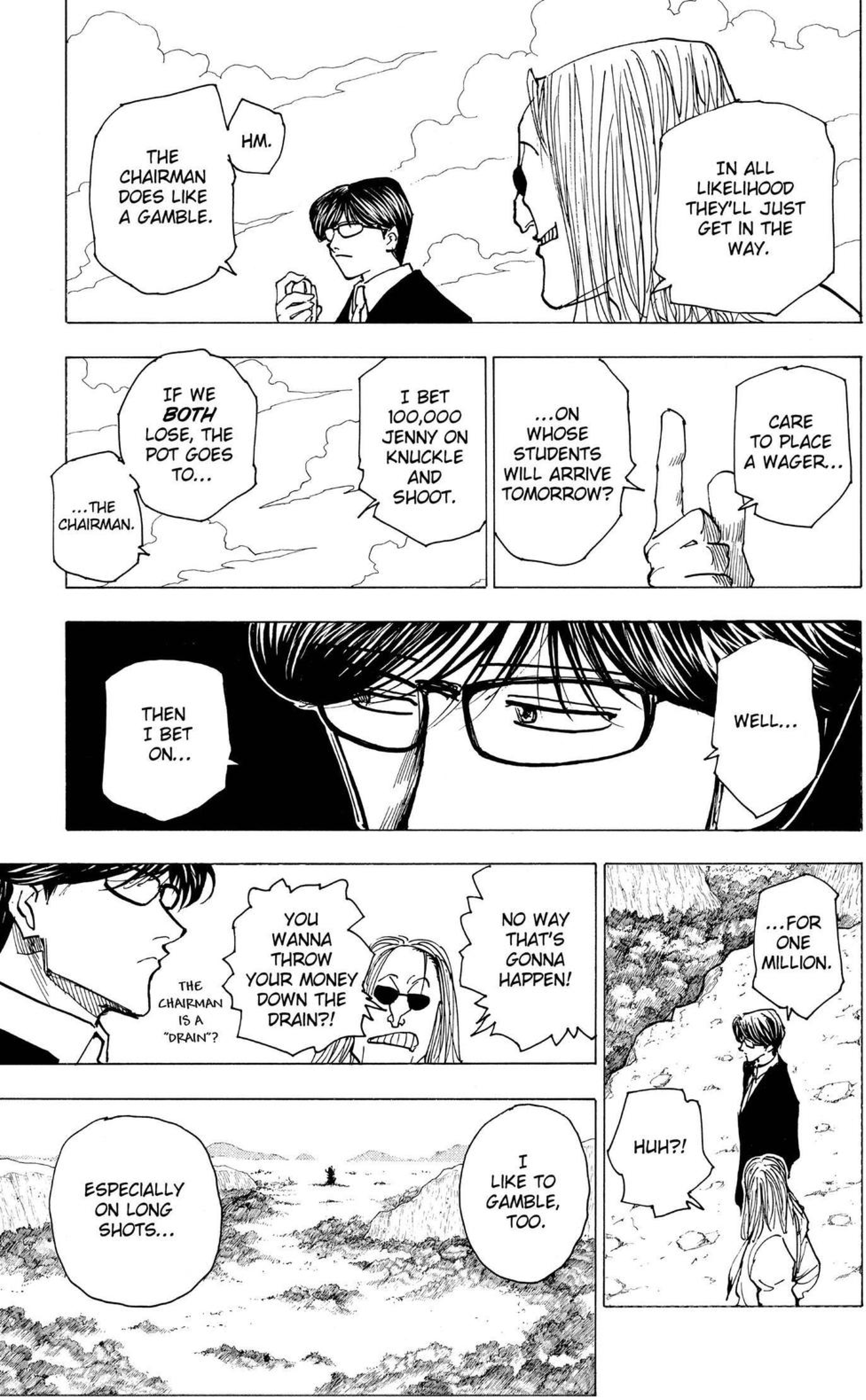

SHF
FFT

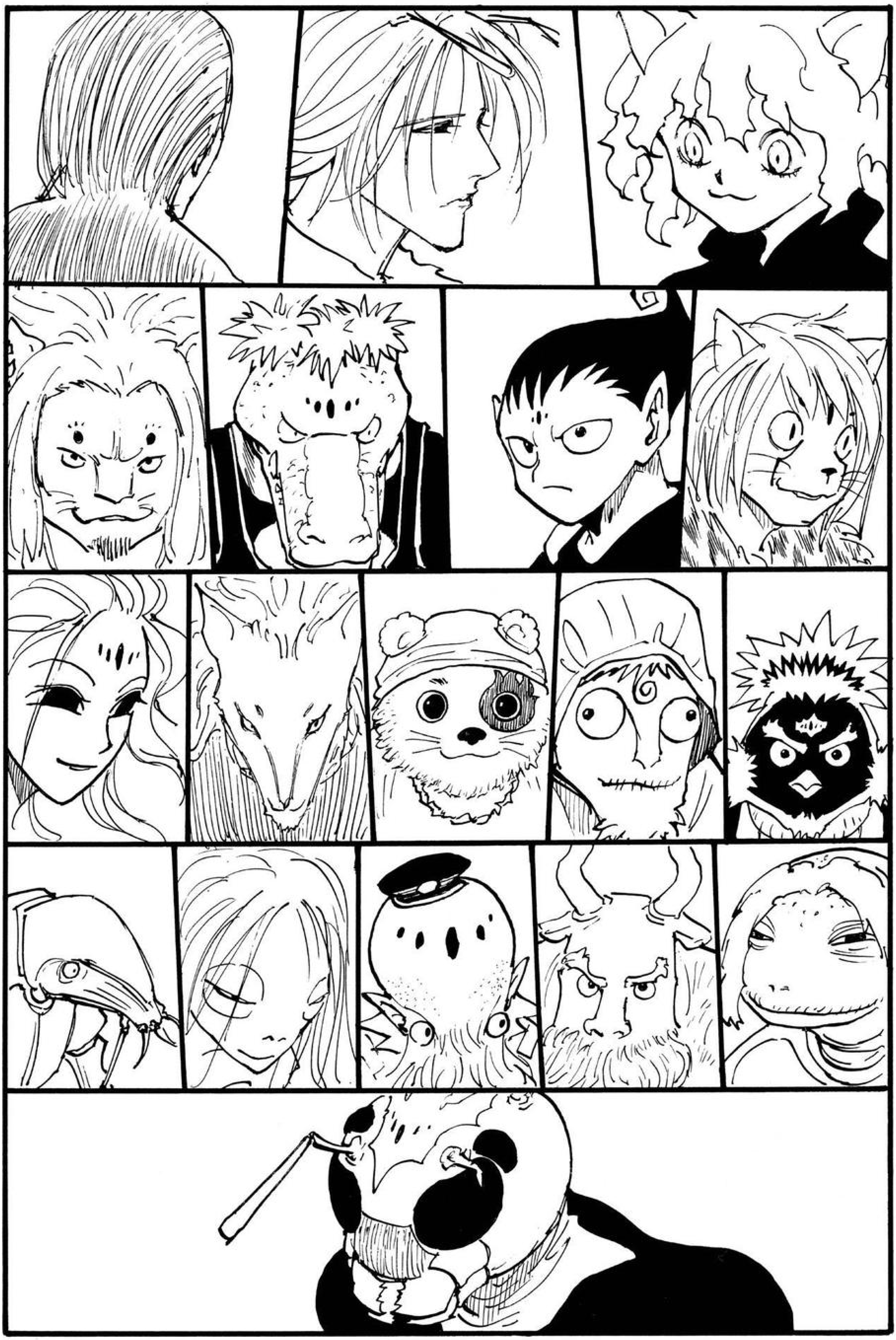

WHIFF


'EY!

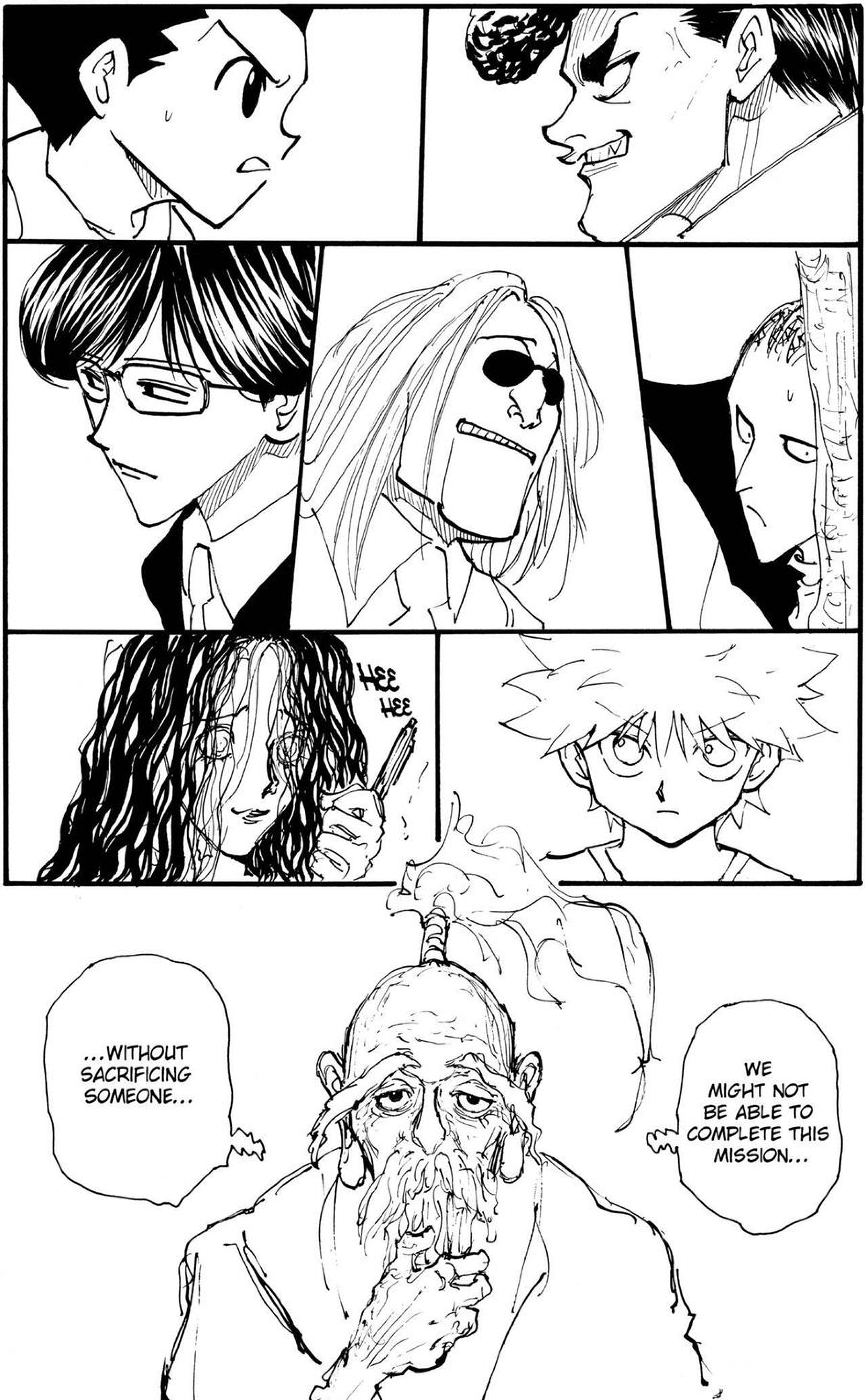

SKHH
I CAN FEEL THE JOLT DOWN TO MY BONES!!
WITHOUT KEN, HE'LL KNOCK ME OUT *INSTANTLY!!*
I NEED FOUR OR FIVE WARM-UP SHOTS.
THEN YOU BETTER WATCH OUT!
I...
...GET BETTER AS THE INNINGS WEAR ON.
R
R
M


THEY'RE STILL STAYING INSIDE?
YES.
THEY'RE HOLING THEMSELVES UP, AS EXPECTED.
SHALL WE TAKE ACTION?
NO.
ISN'T IT ALMOST THE APPOINTED DAY? WE SHOULD WAIT.
CONSIDERING THE NUMBER OF STORED BODIES...
...THEY'LL NEED TO RESTOCK IN ABOUT A WEEK.
WE CAN WIPE OUT A COUPLE MORE TROOPS THEN.
WE WAIT FOR THE PUPILS.
HMM.
I DON'T SEE THE POINT.
WE CAN'T COUNT ON THE STUDENTS FOR THIS BATTLE-- THEY'RE NOT RELIABLE ENOUGH.
THEY MIGHT BE USEFUL AS *BAIT*, BUT NOT MUCH ELSE.

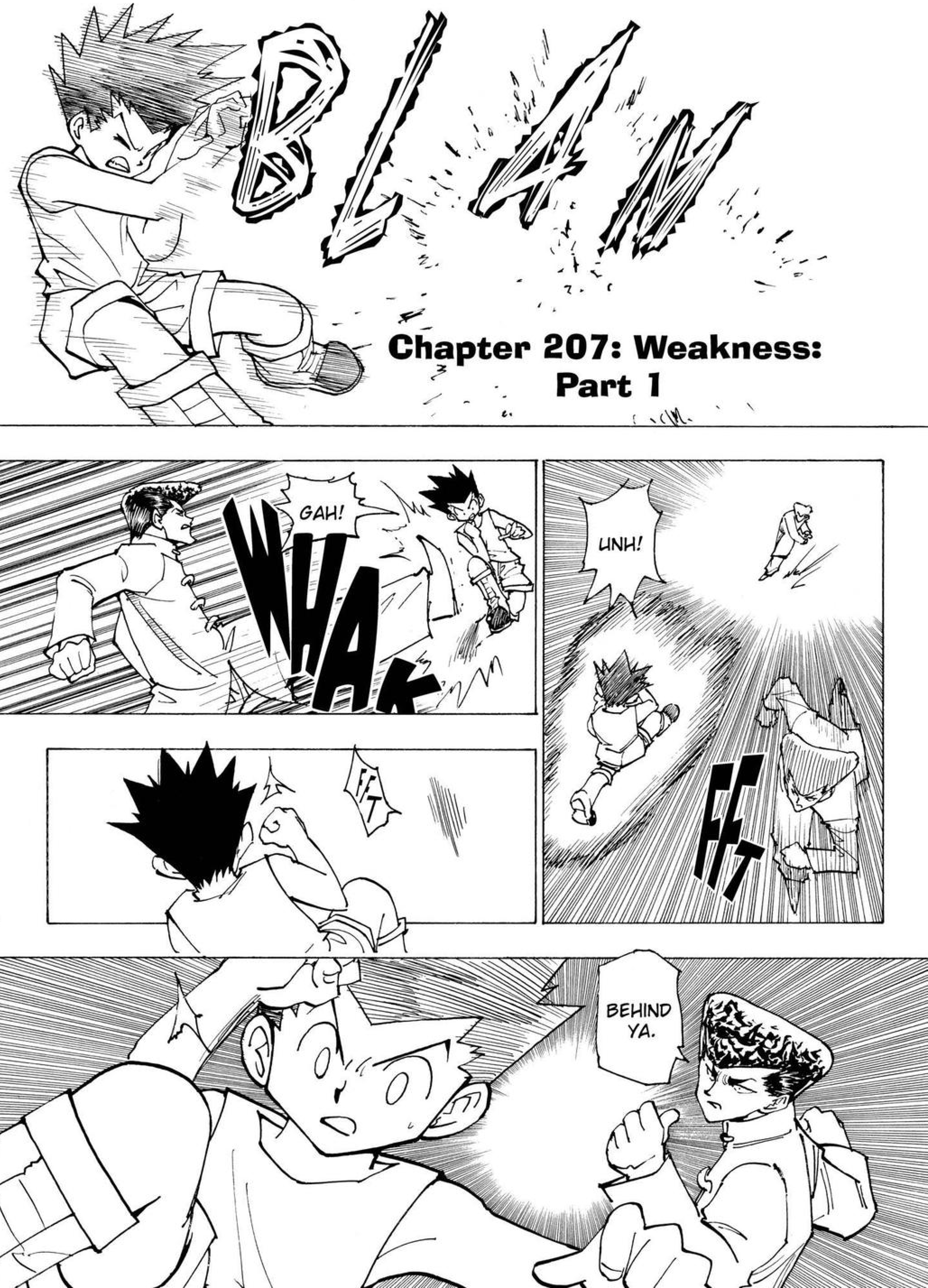

IN ALL LIKELIHOOD THEY'LL JUST GET IN THE WAY.
HM.
THE CHAIRMAN DOES LIKE A GAMBLE.
CARE TO PLACE A WAGER...
...ON WHOSE STUDENTS WILL ARRIVE TOMORROW?
I BET 100,000 JENNY ON KNUCKLE AND SHOOT.
IF WE ***BOTH*** LOSE, THE POT GOES TO...
...THE CHAIRMAN.
WELL...
THEN I BET ON...
...FOR ONE MILLION.
HUH?!
NO WAY THAT'S GONNA HAPPEN!
YOU WANNA THROW YOUR MONEY DOWN THE DRAIN?!
THE CHAIRMAN IS A "DRAIN"?
I LIKE TO GAMBLE, TOO.
ESPECIALLY ON LONG SHOTS...

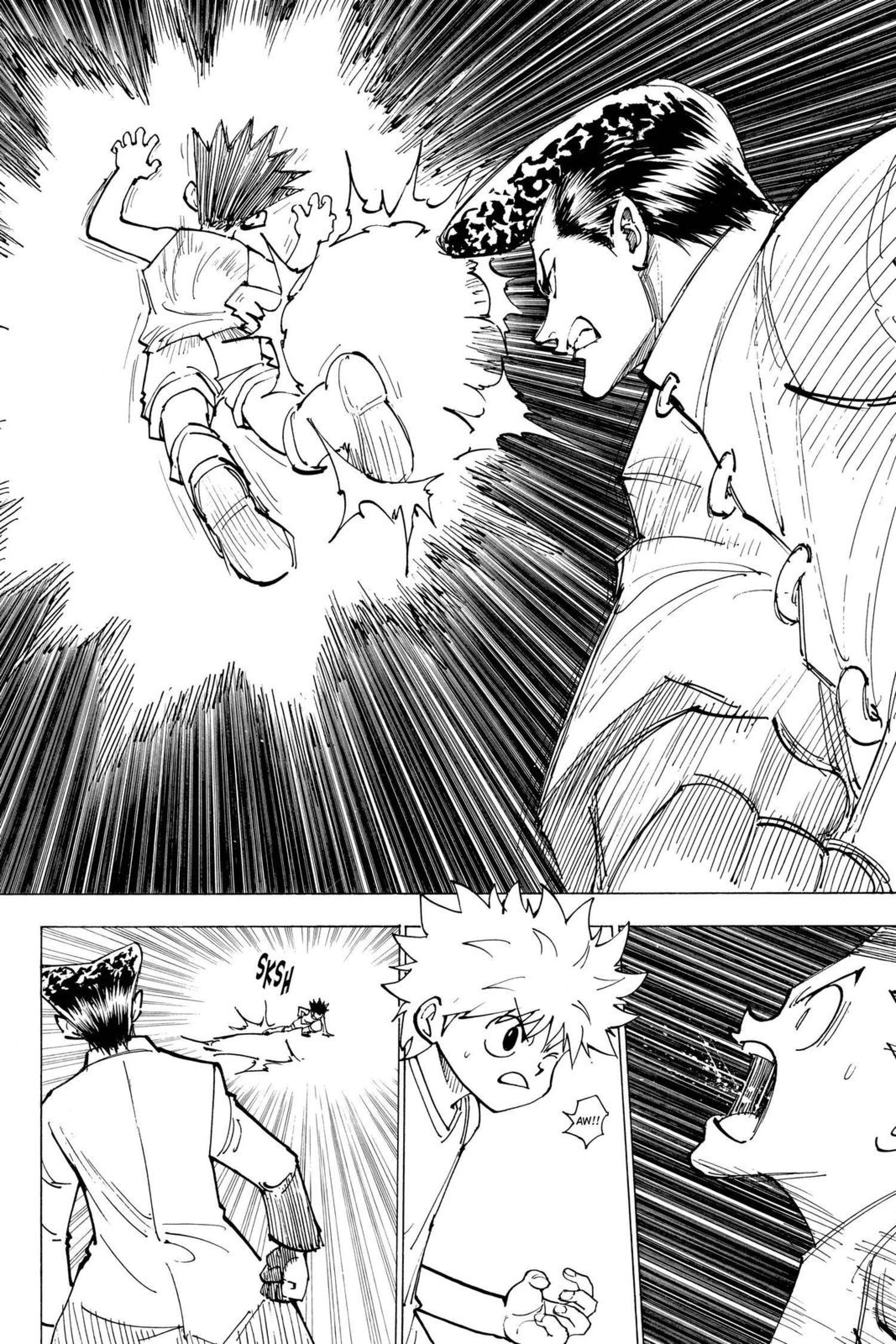


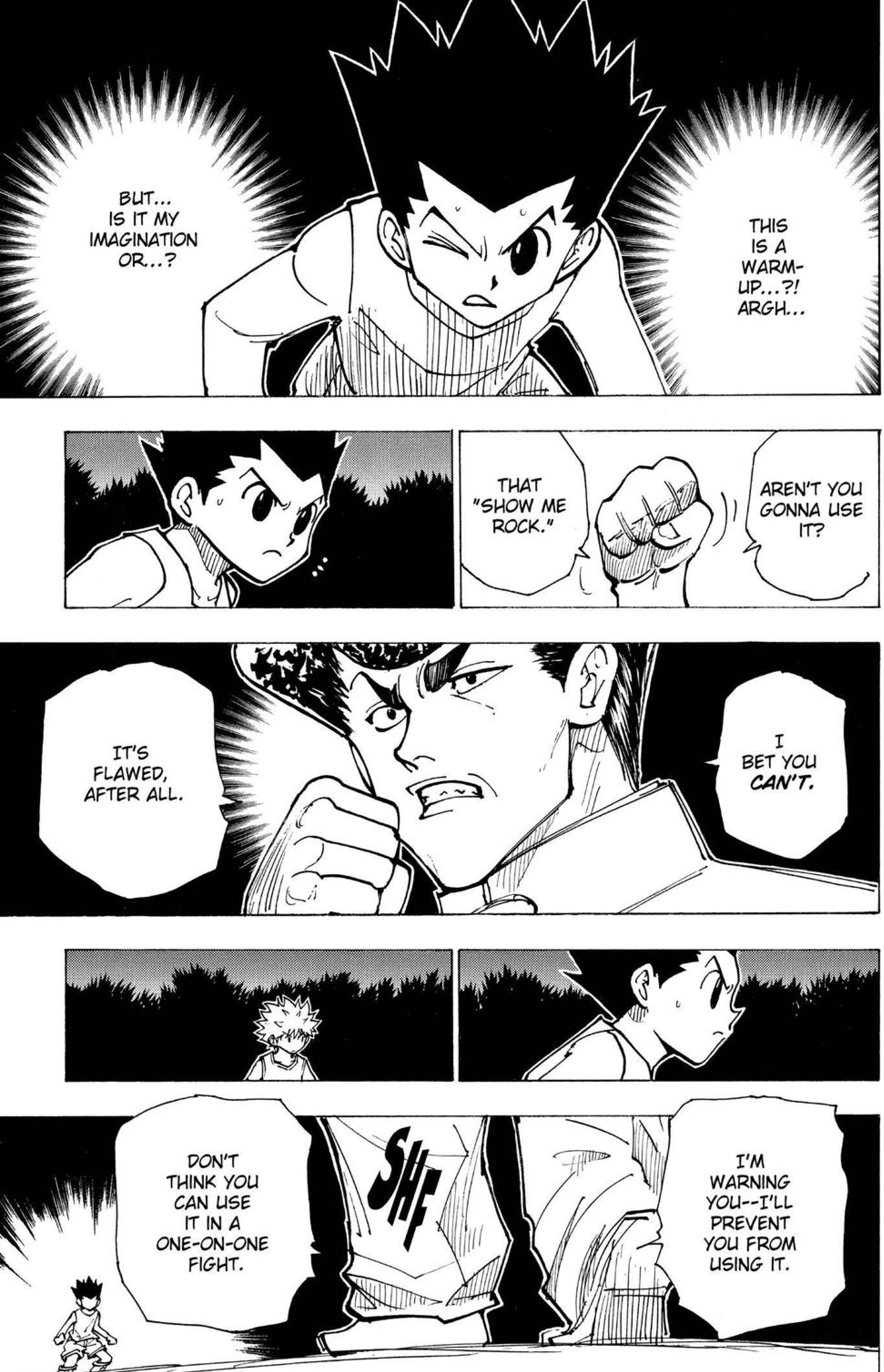
READ THIS WAY

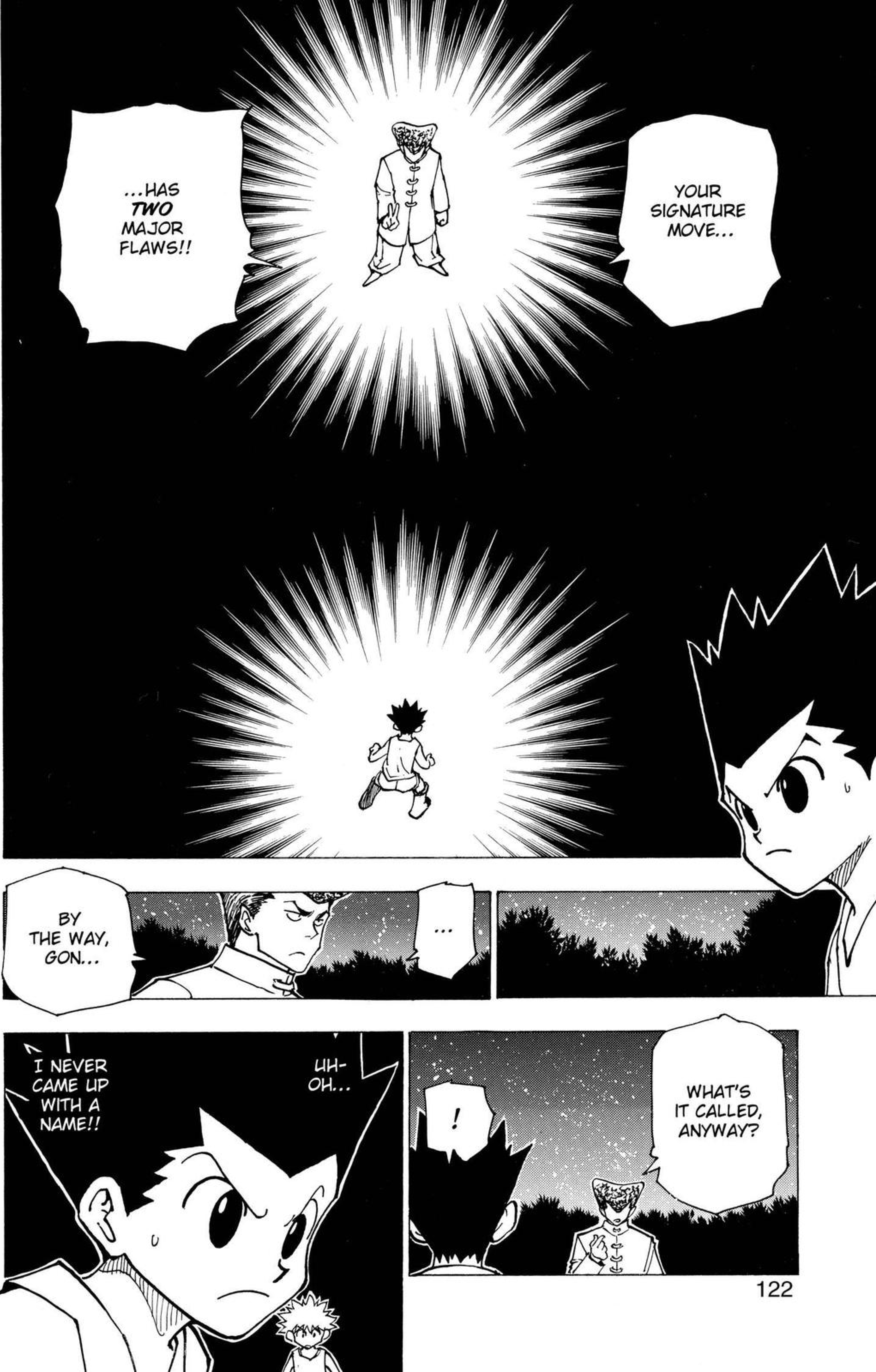

HEE HEE
WE MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO COMPLETE THIS MISSION...
...WITHOUT SACRIFICING SOMEONE...

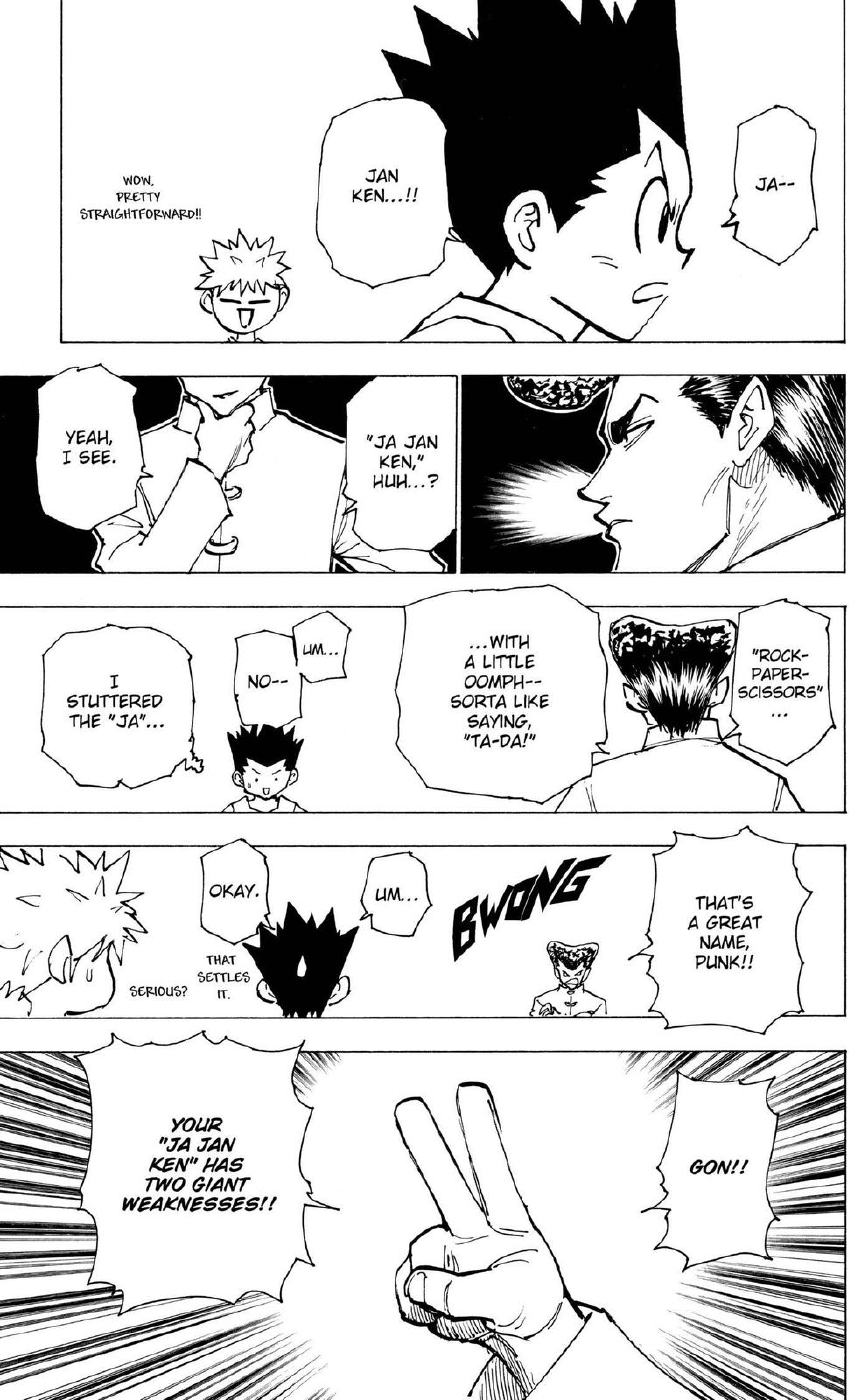
Chapter 207: Weakness: Part 1

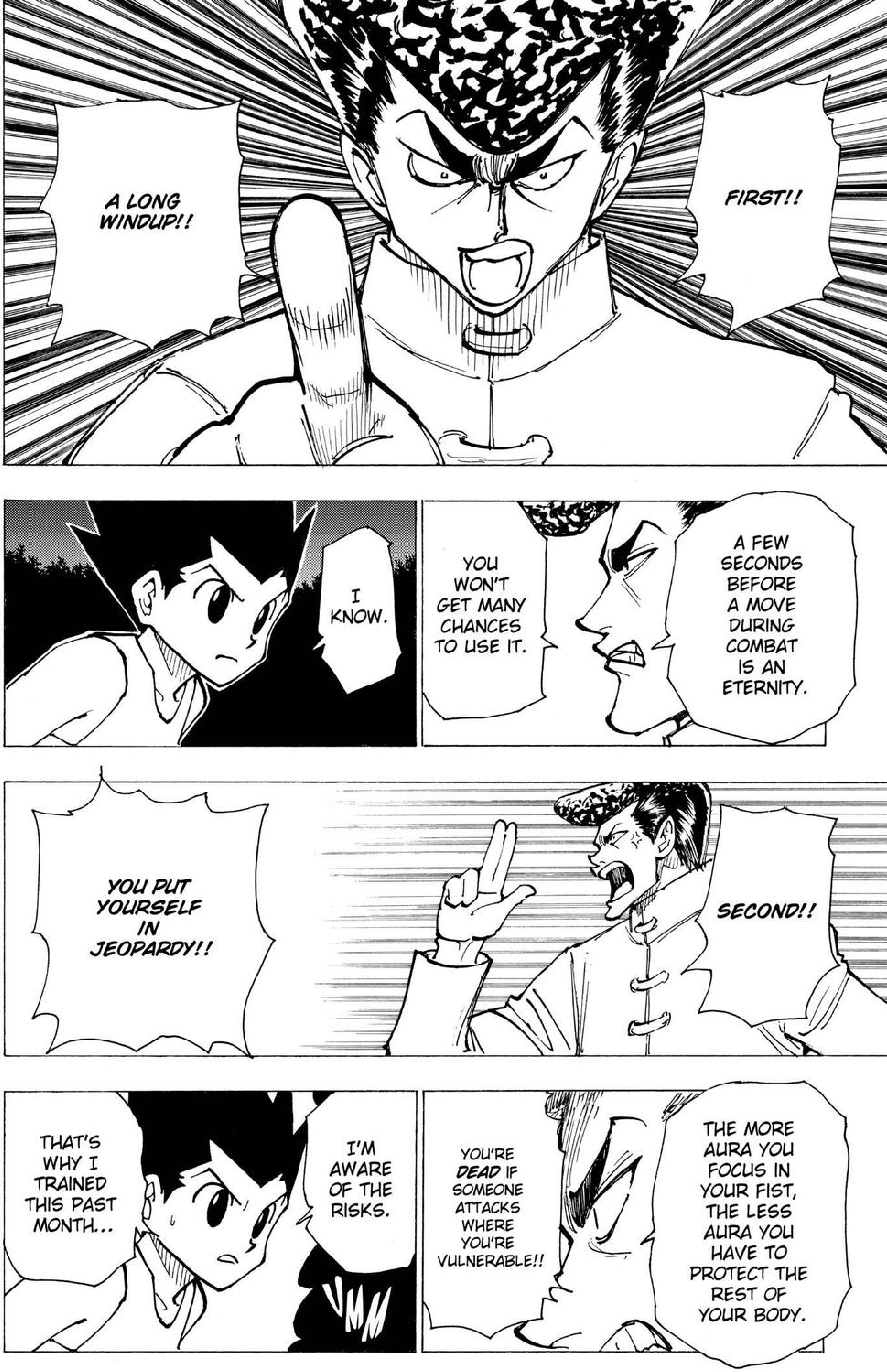

BLAM
UNH!
FFT
GAH!
WHAK
FFT
BEHIND YA.

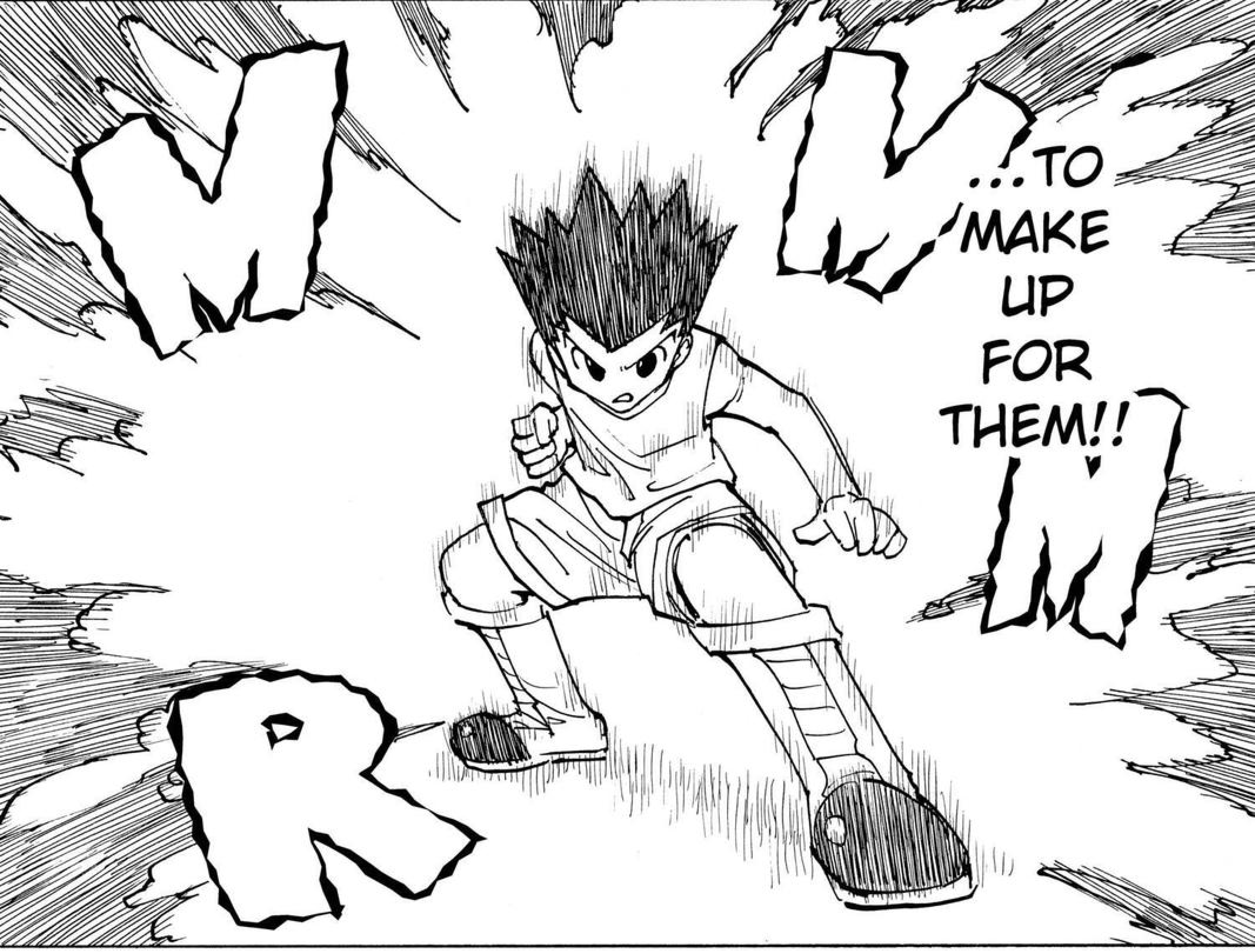

AW!!
SKSH

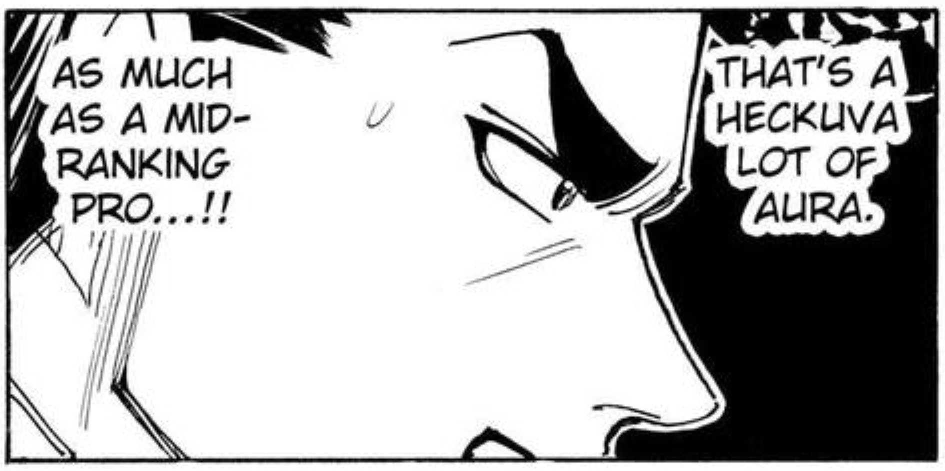

THIS IS A WARM-UP...?! ARGH...
BUT... IS IT MY IMAGINATION OR...?
AREN'T YOU GONNA USE IT?
THAT "SHOW ME ROCK."
...
I BET YOU *CAN'T.*
IT'S FLAWED, AFTER ALL.
I'M WARNING YOU--I'LL PREVENT YOU FROM USING IT.
SHF
DON'T THINK YOU CAN USE IT IN A ONE-ON-ONE FIGHT.

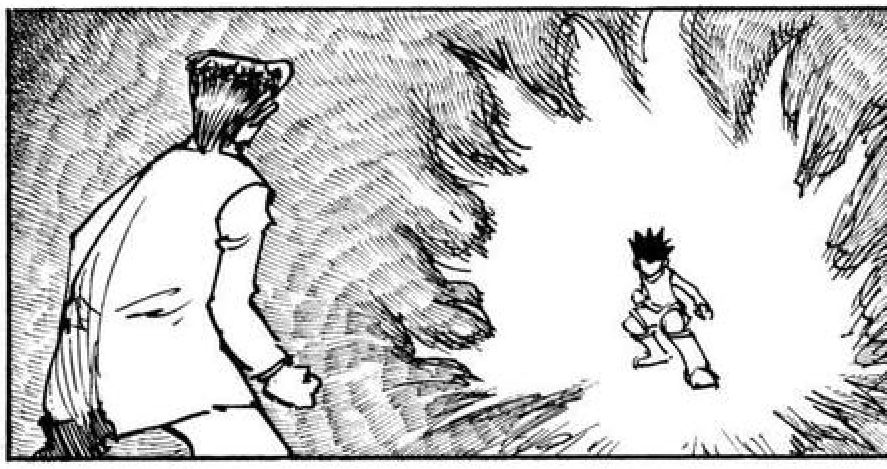

YOUR SIGNATURE MOVE...
...HAS **TWO** MAJOR FLAWS!!
...
BY THE WAY, GON...
WHAT'S IT CALLED, ANYWAY?
!
UH-OH...
I NEVER CAME UP WITH A NAME!!

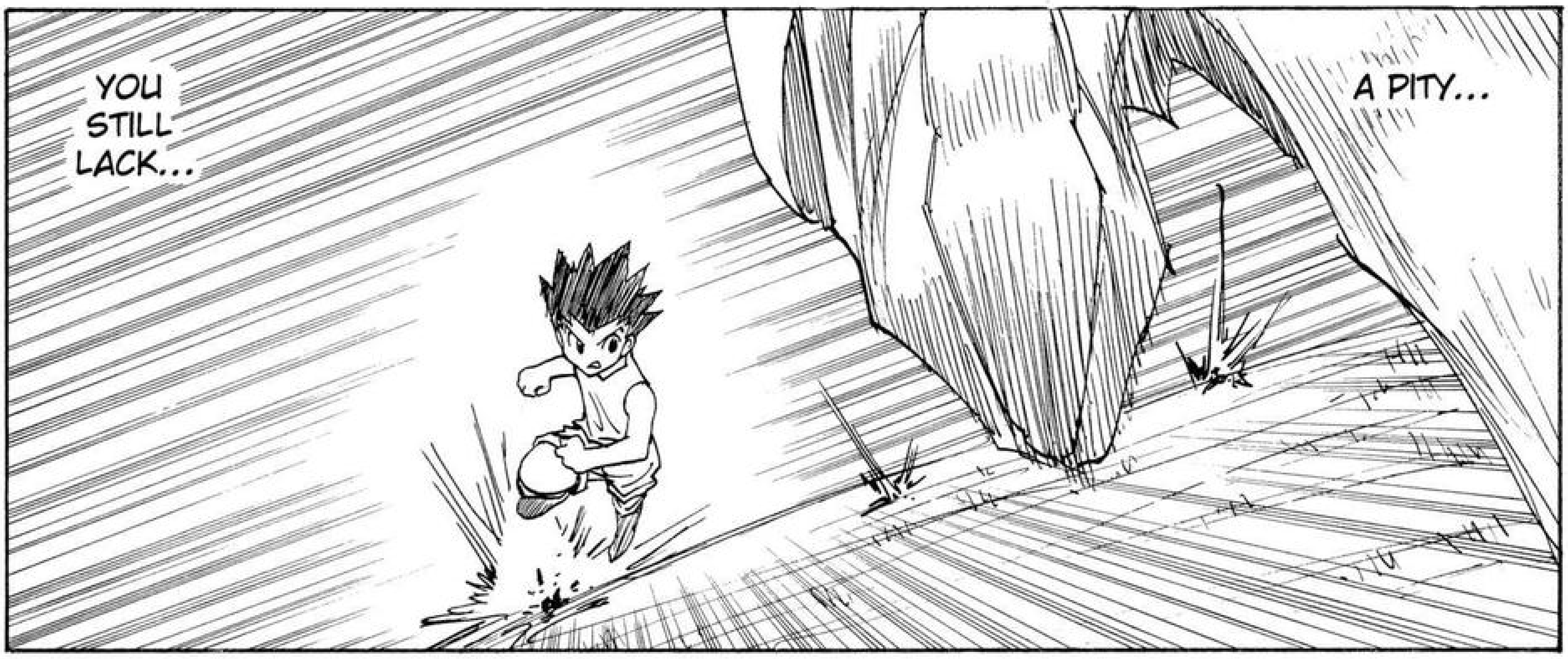

JA--
JAN KEN...!!
WOW, PRETTY STRAIGHTFORWARD!!
"JA JAN KEN," HUH...?
YEAH, I SEE.
"ROCK-PAPER-SCISSORS"...
...WITH A LITTLE OOMPH-- SORTA LIKE SAYING, "TA-DA!"
UM...
NO--
I STUTTERED THE "JA"...
THAT'S A GREAT NAME, PUNK!!
BWONG
UM...
OKAY.
THAT SETTLES IT.
SERIOUS?
GON!!
YOUR "JA JAN KEN" HAS TWO GIANT WEAKNESSES!!

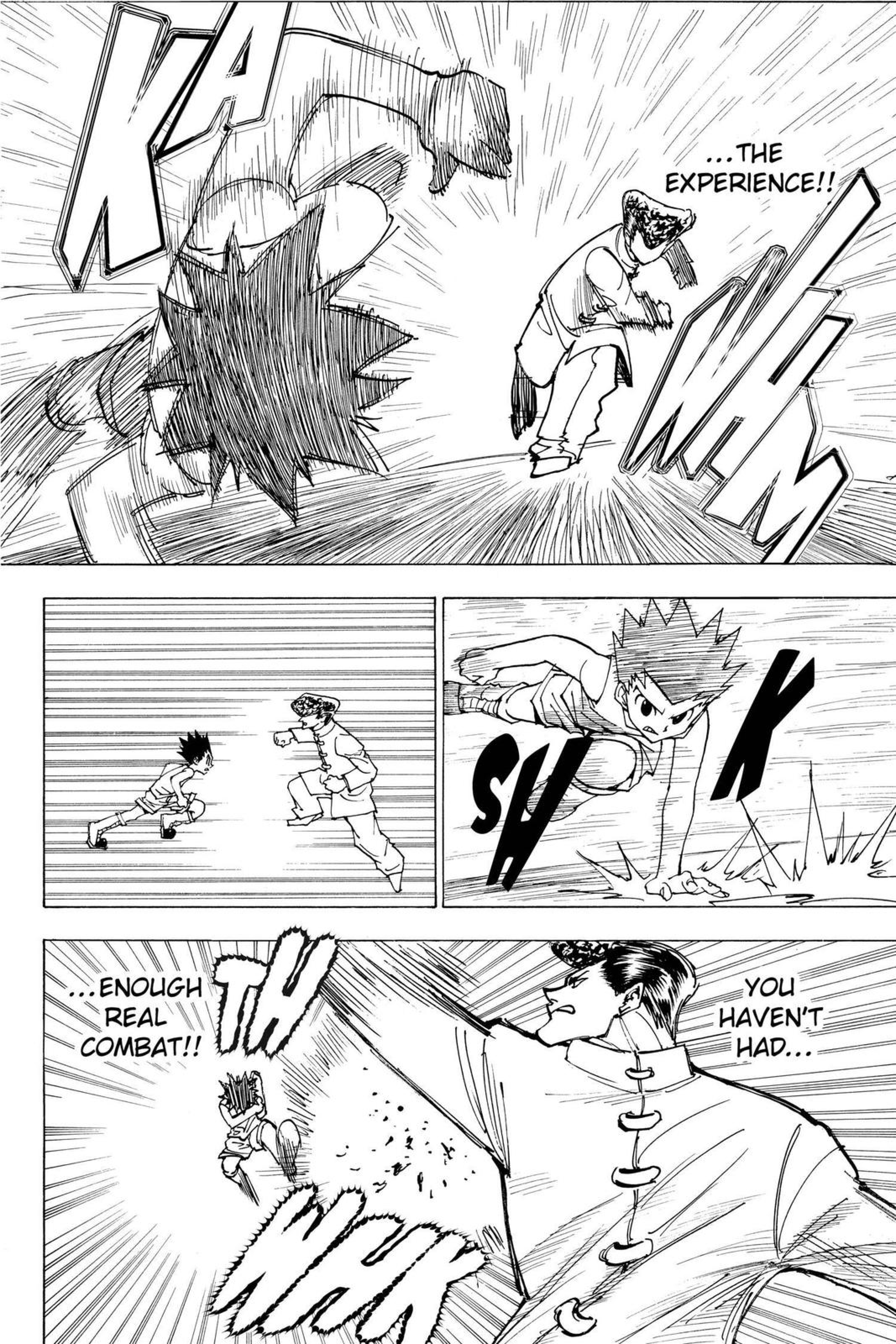

FIRST!!
A LONG WINDUP!!
A FEW SECONDS BEFORE A MOVE DURING COMBAT IS AN ETERNITY.
YOU WON'T GET MANY CHANCES TO USE IT.
I KNOW.
SECOND!!
YOU PUT YOURSELF IN JEOPARDY!!
THE MORE AURA YOU FOCUS IN YOUR FIST, THE LESS AURA YOU HAVE TO PROTECT THE REST OF YOUR BODY.
YOU'RE DEAD IF SOMEONE ATTACKS WHERE YOU'RE VULNERABLE!!
I'M AWARE OF THE RISKS.
THAT'S WHY I TRAINED THIS PAST MONTH...
UMM


M
...TO MAKE UP FOR THEM!!
M
M
R

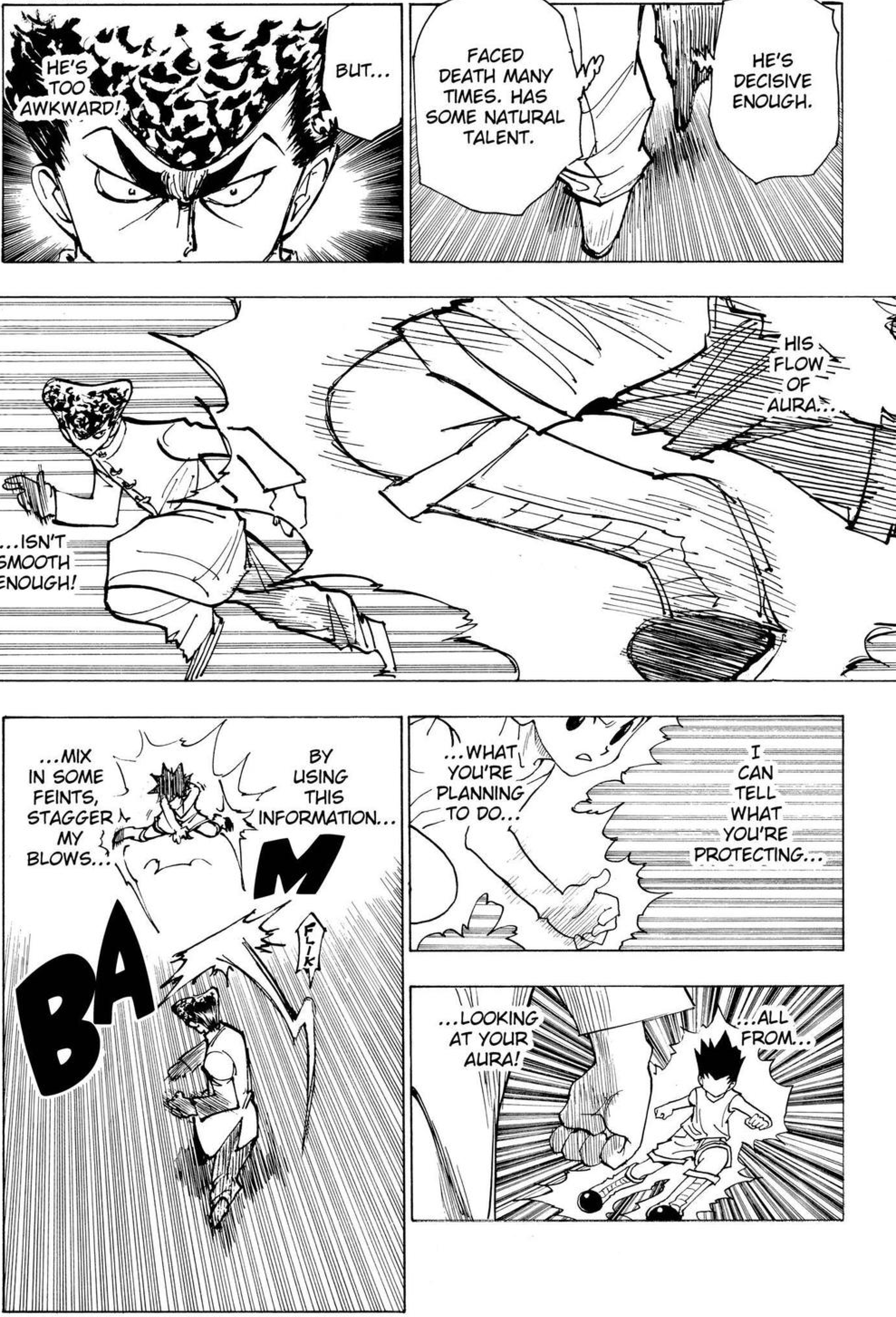

THAT'S A HECKUVA LOT OF AURA.
AS MUCH AS A MID-RANKING PRO...!!

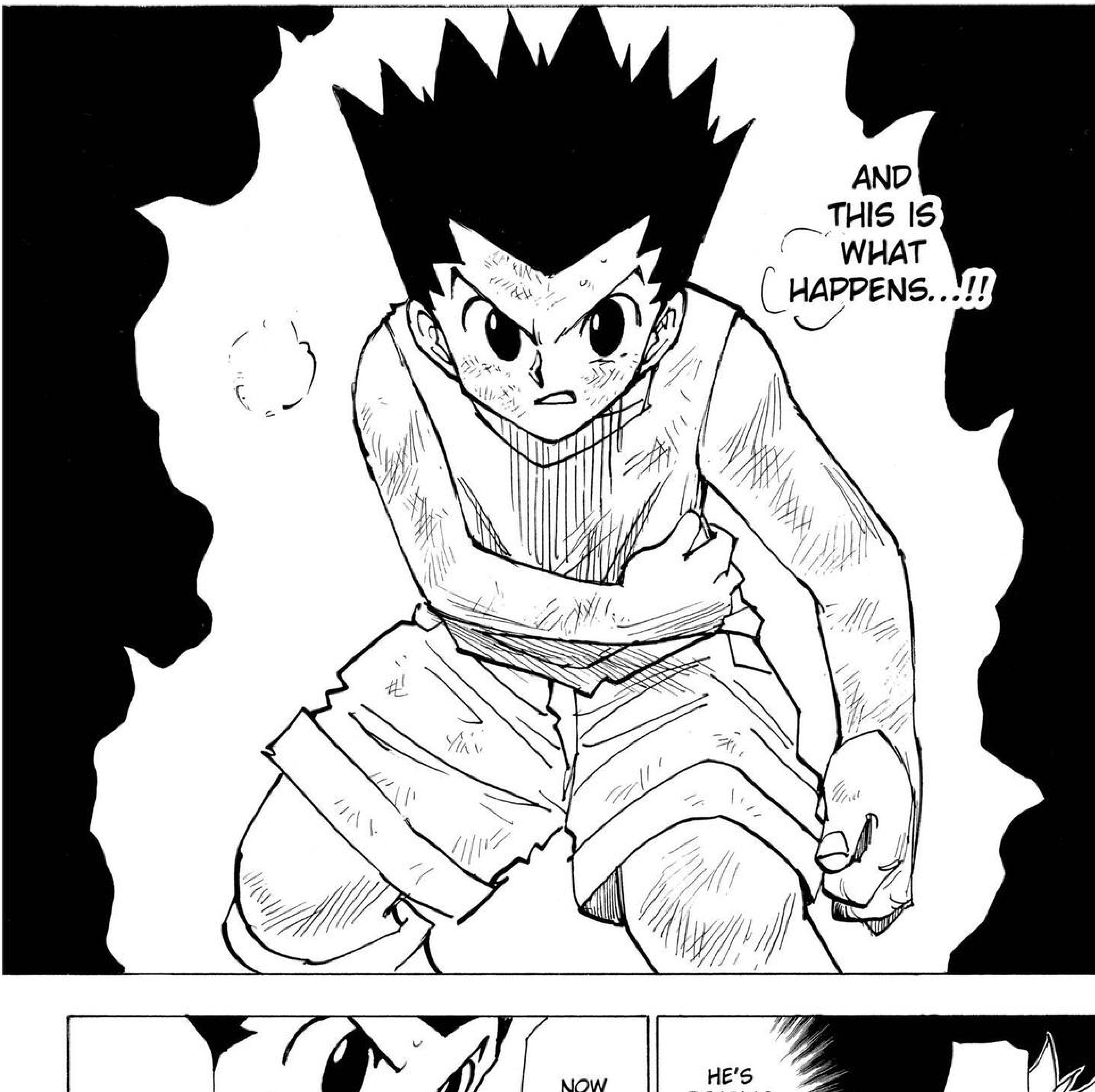


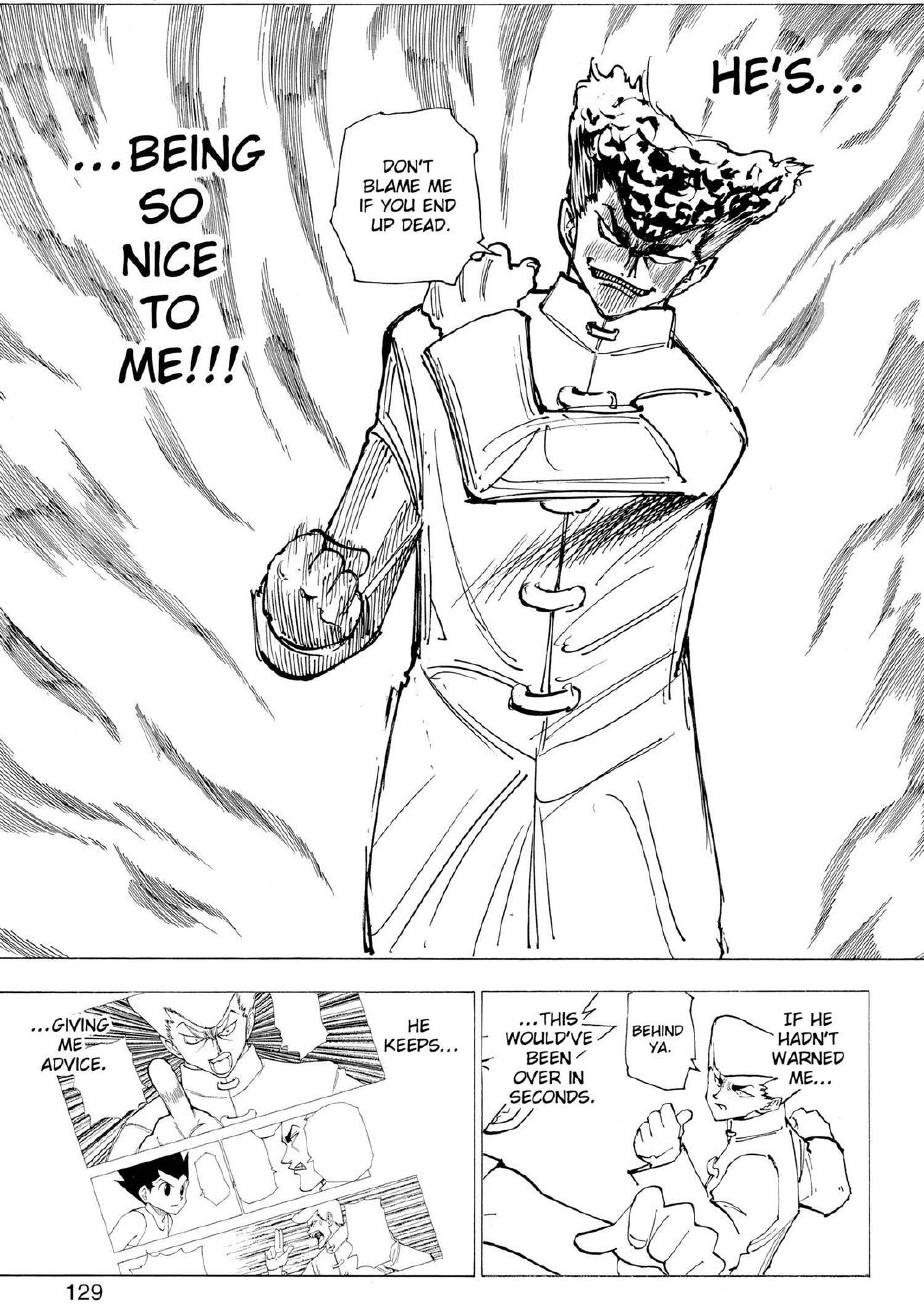

A PITY...
YOU STILL LACK...

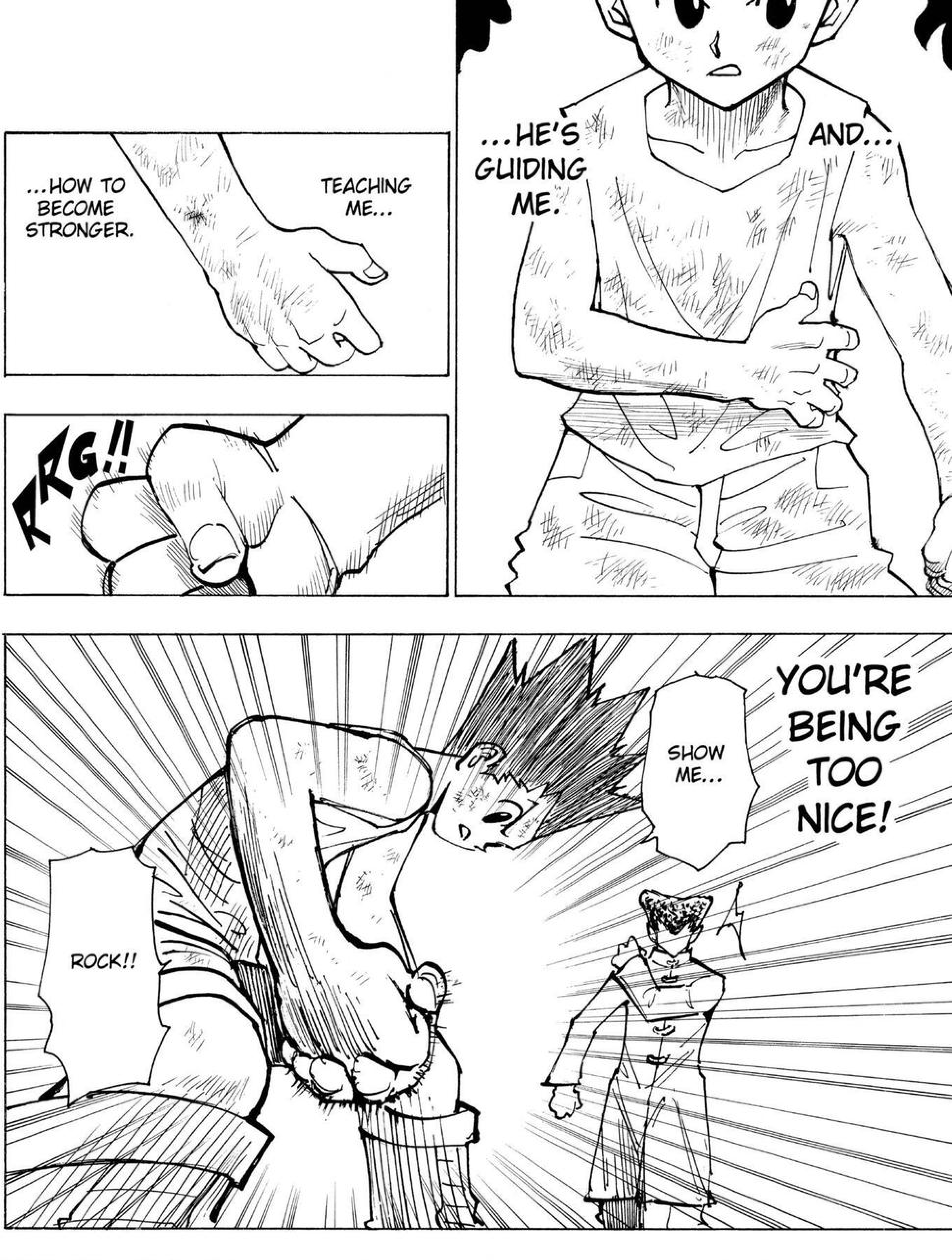

KA
...THE EXPERIENCE!!
WHM
SH
K
YOU HAVEN'T HAD...
...ENOUGH REAL COMBAT!!
TH
WHK

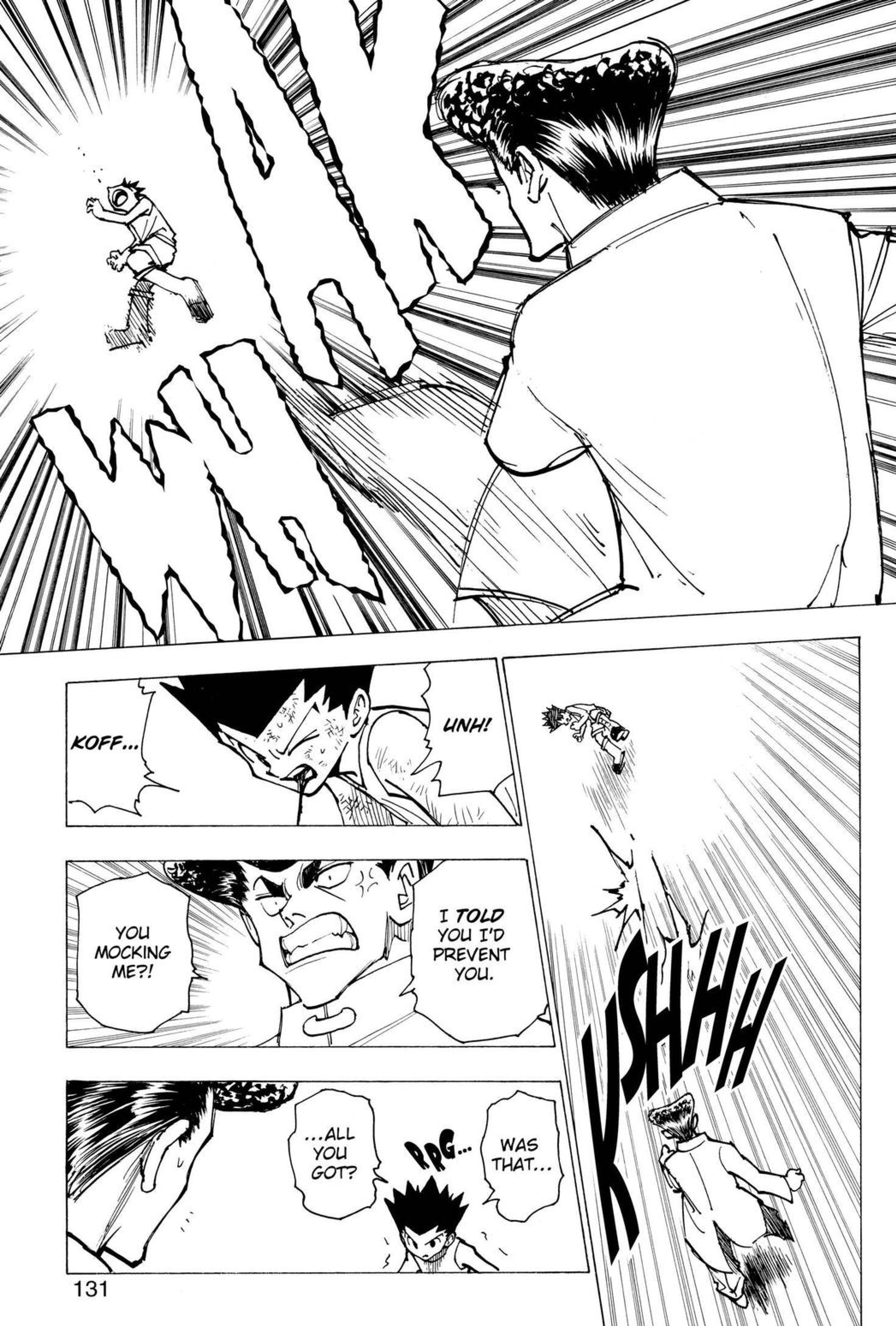
READ THIS WAY

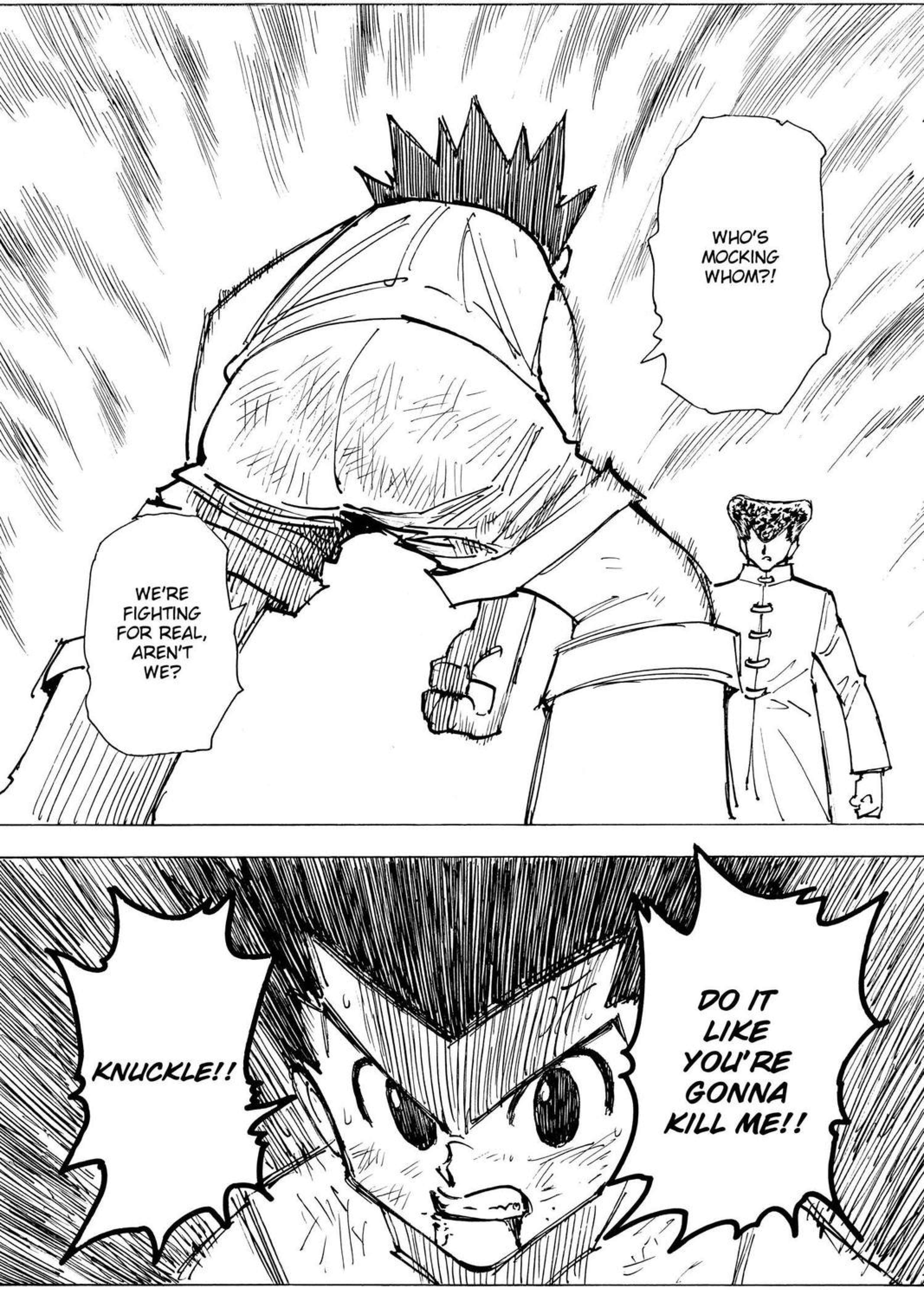

HE'S DECISIVE ENOUGH.
FACED DEATH MANY TIMES. HAS SOME NATURAL TALENT.
BUT…
HE'S TOO AWKWARD!
HIS FLOW OF AURA…
…ISN'T SMOOTH ENOUGH!
I CAN TELL WHAT YOU'RE PROTECTING…
…WHAT YOU'RE PLANNING TO DO…
…ALL FROM…
…LOOKING AT YOUR AURA!
BY USING THIS INFORMATION…
…MIX IN SOME FEINTS, STAGGER MY BLOWS…
FLIK
BAM


AND THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS...!!
ARGH...
HE'S READING HIS FLOW OF AURA LIKE A BOOK!!
NOW I'M SURE OF IT...
KNUCKLE'S...
NOW THEN...
I'M DONE WARMING UP.

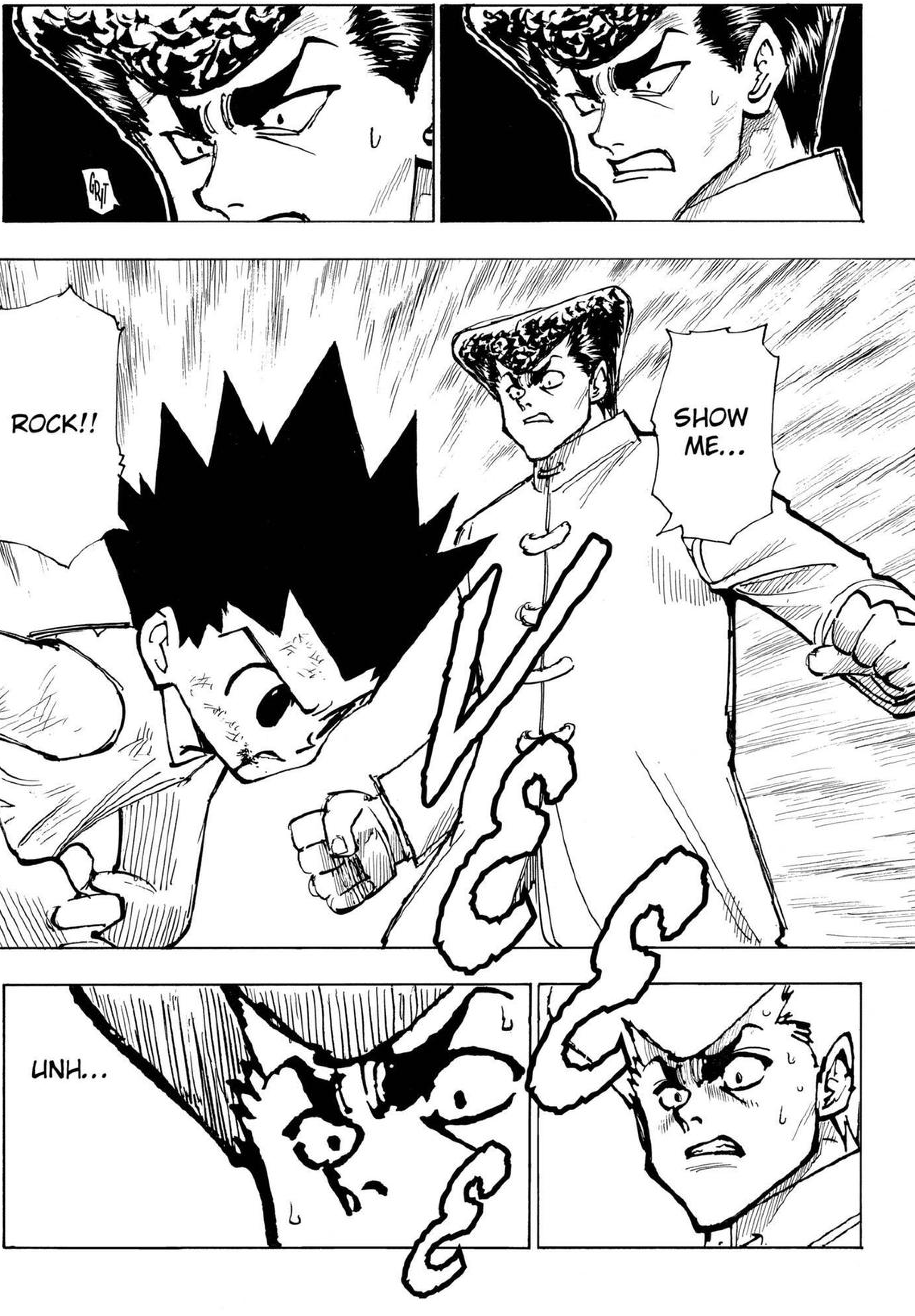

HE'S...
DON'T BLAME ME IF YOU END UP DEAD.
...BEING SO NICE TO ME!!!
IF HE HADN'T WARNED ME...
BEHIND YA.
...THIS WOULD'VE BEEN OVER IN SECONDS.
HE KEEPS...
...GIVING ME ADVICE.


AND...
...HE'S GUIDING ME.
TEACHING ME...
...HOW TO BECOME STRONGER.
RRG!!
YOU'RE BEING TOO NICE!
SHOW ME...
ROCK!!

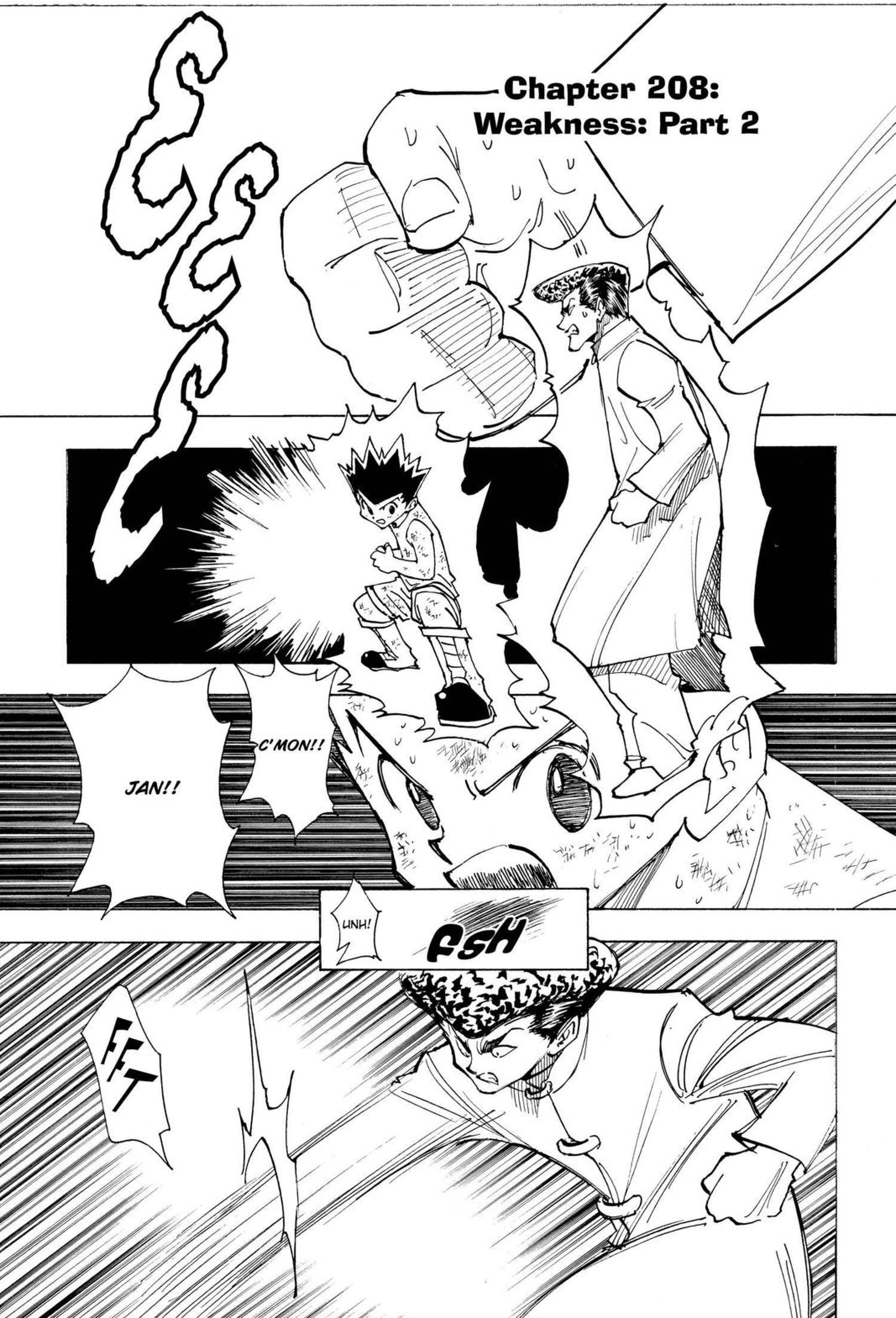

WHAM
KSHHH
UNH!
KOFF...
I *TOLD* YOU I'D PREVENT YOU.
YOU MOCKING ME?!
WAS THAT...
RRG...
...ALL YOU GOT?

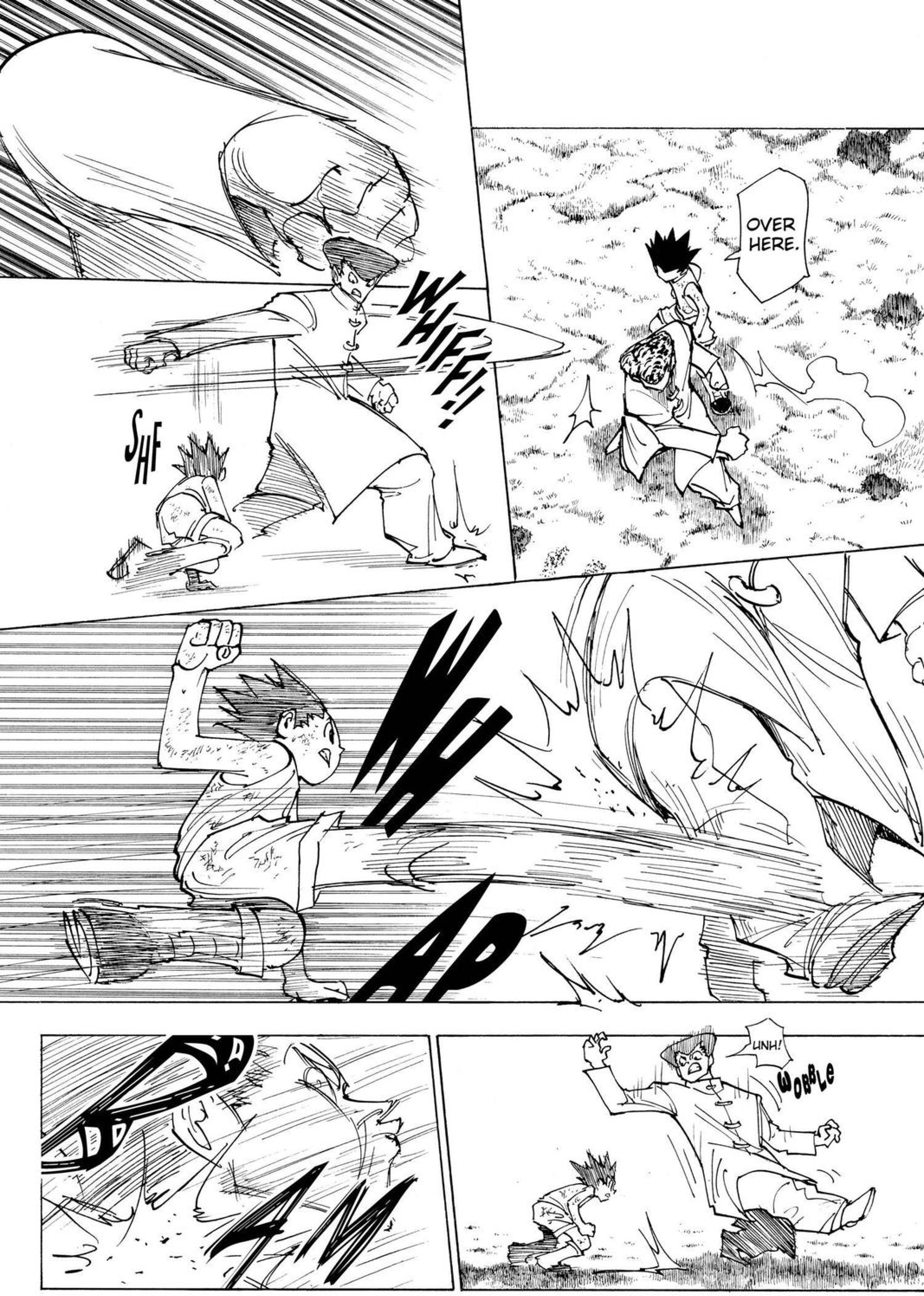

WHO'S MOCKING WHOM?!
WE'RE FIGHTING FOR REAL, AREN'T WE?
DO IT LIKE YOU'RE GONNA KILL ME!!
KNUCKLE!!

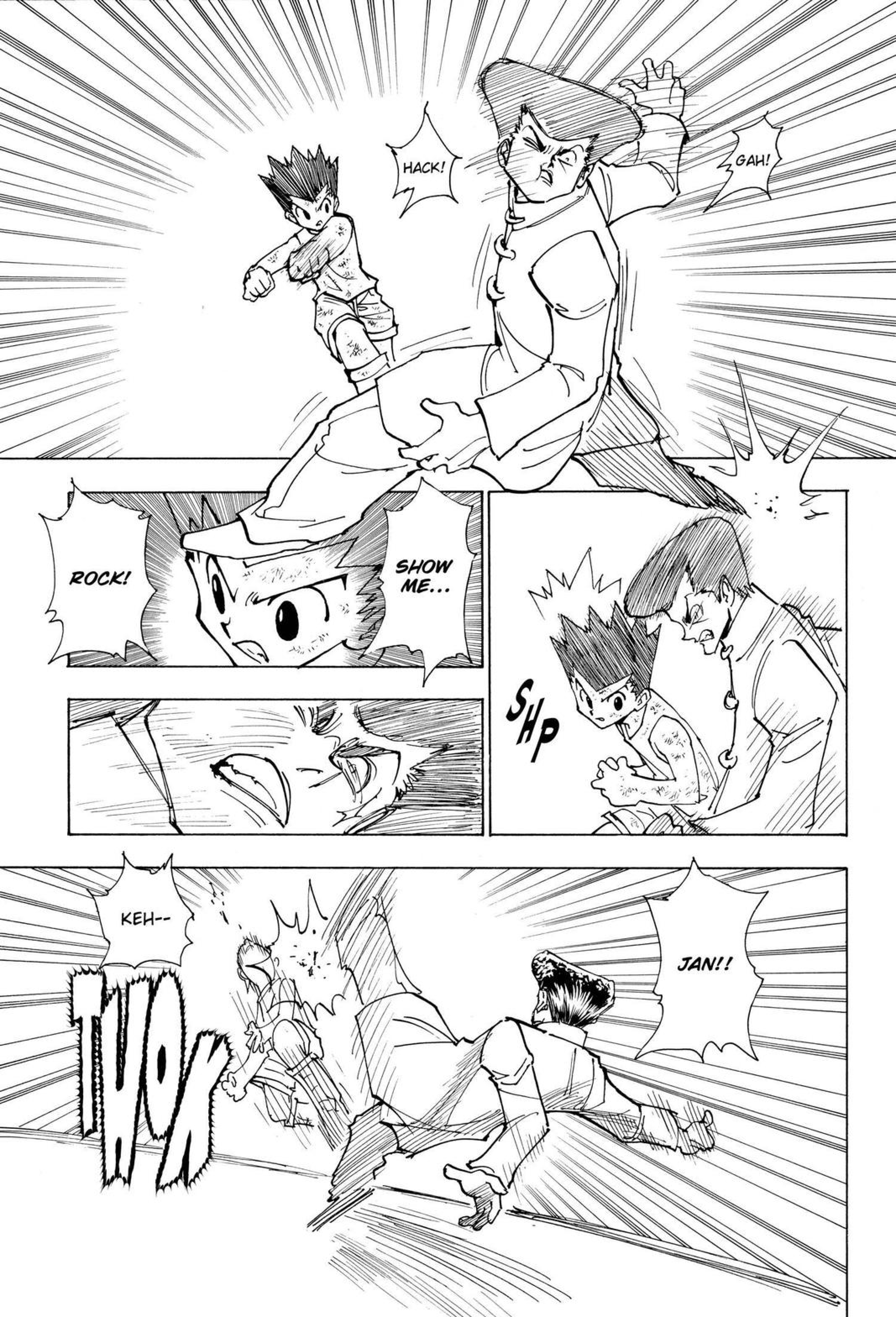
READ THIS WAY

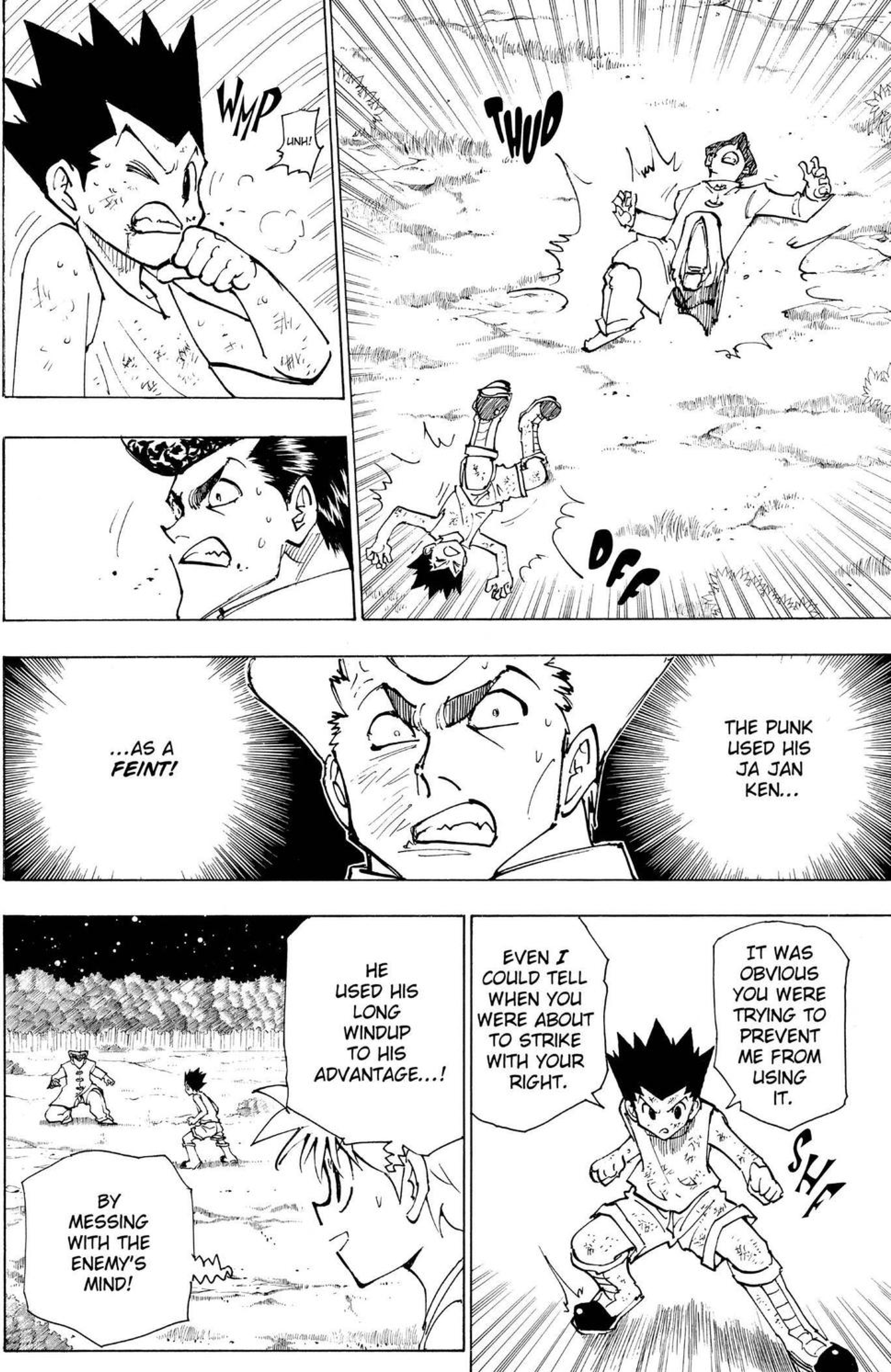

GRIT
SHOW ME...
ROCK!!
UNH...

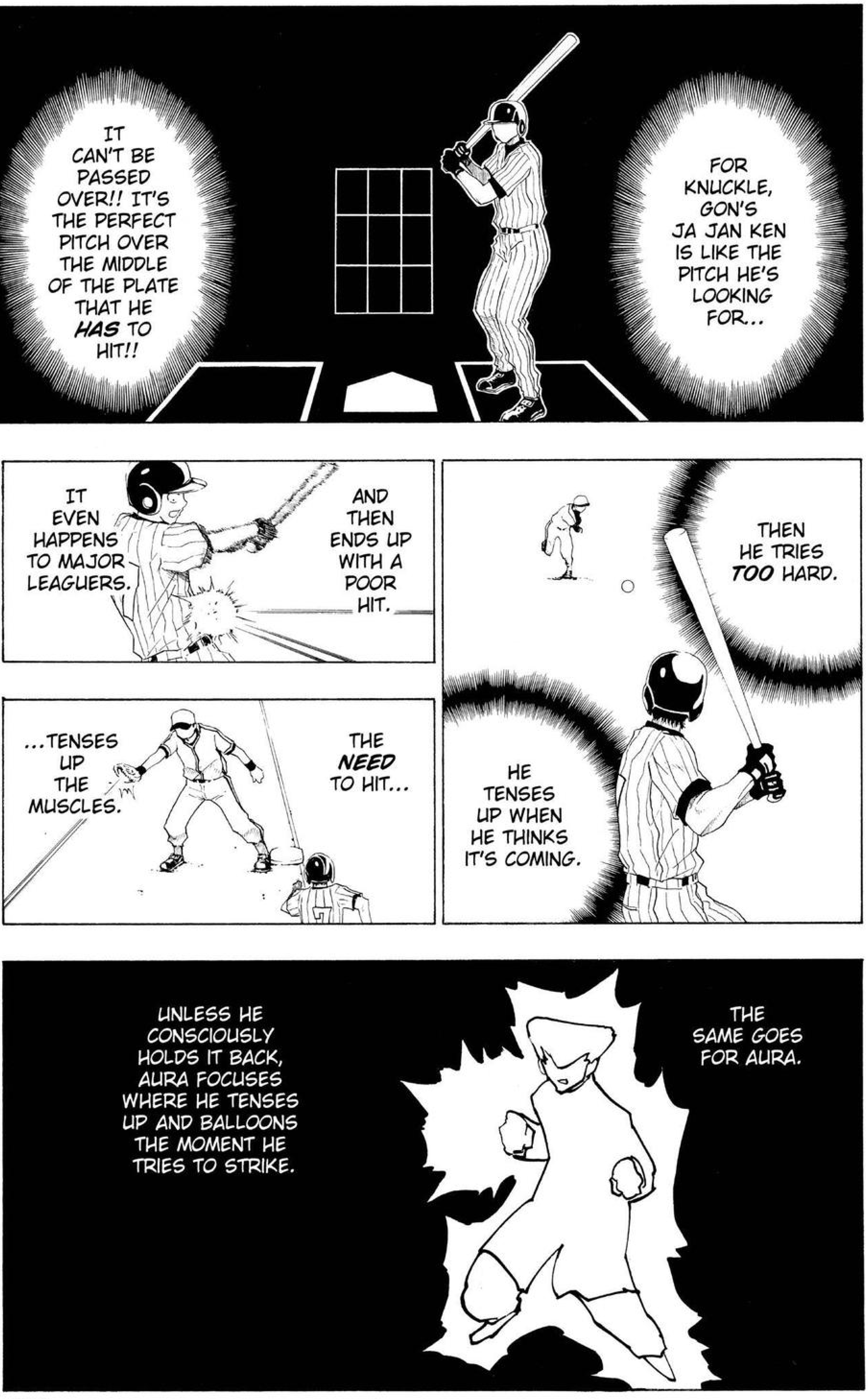
Chapter 208: Weakness: Part 2

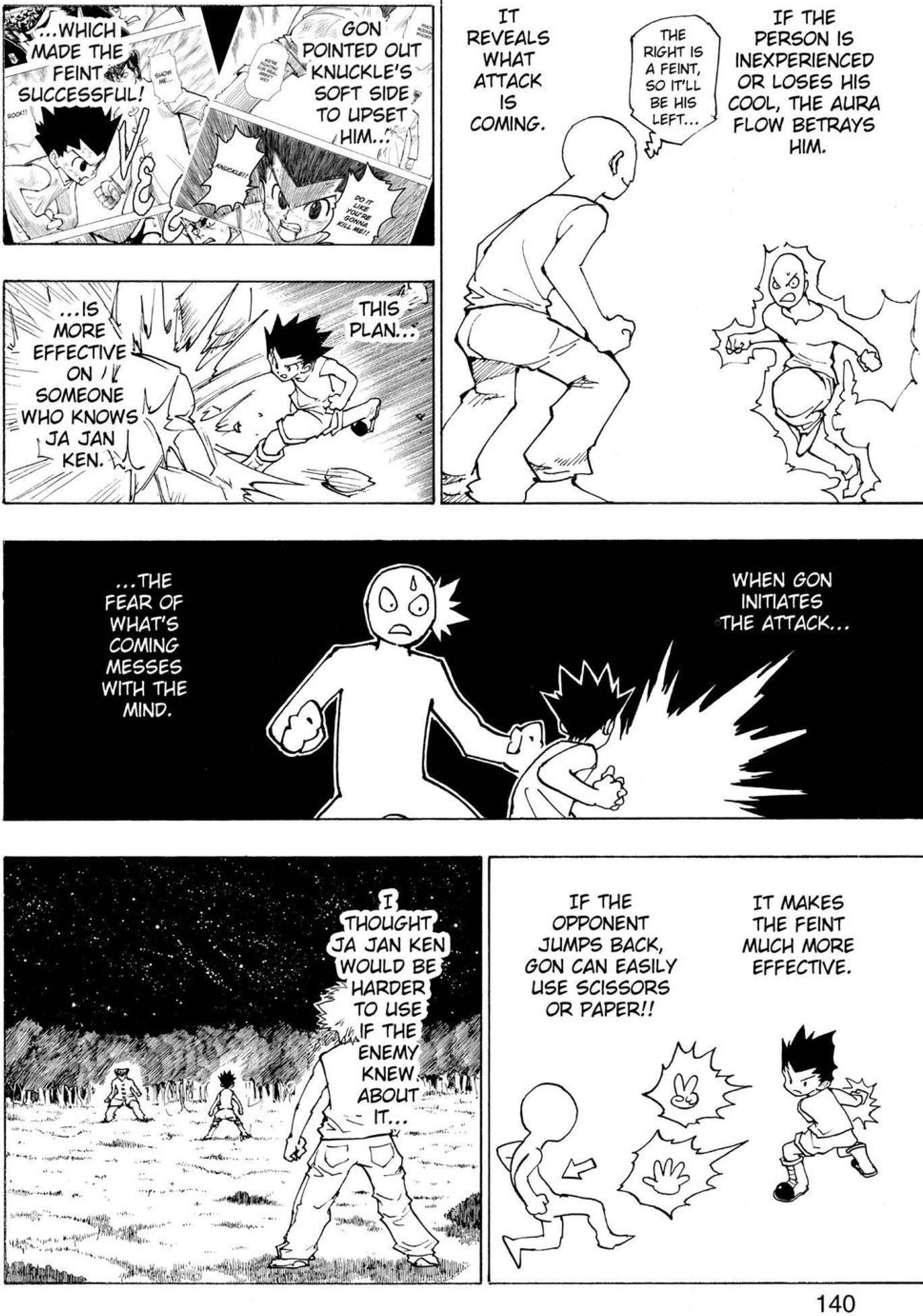

C'MON!!
JAN!!
UNH!
FSH
FFT

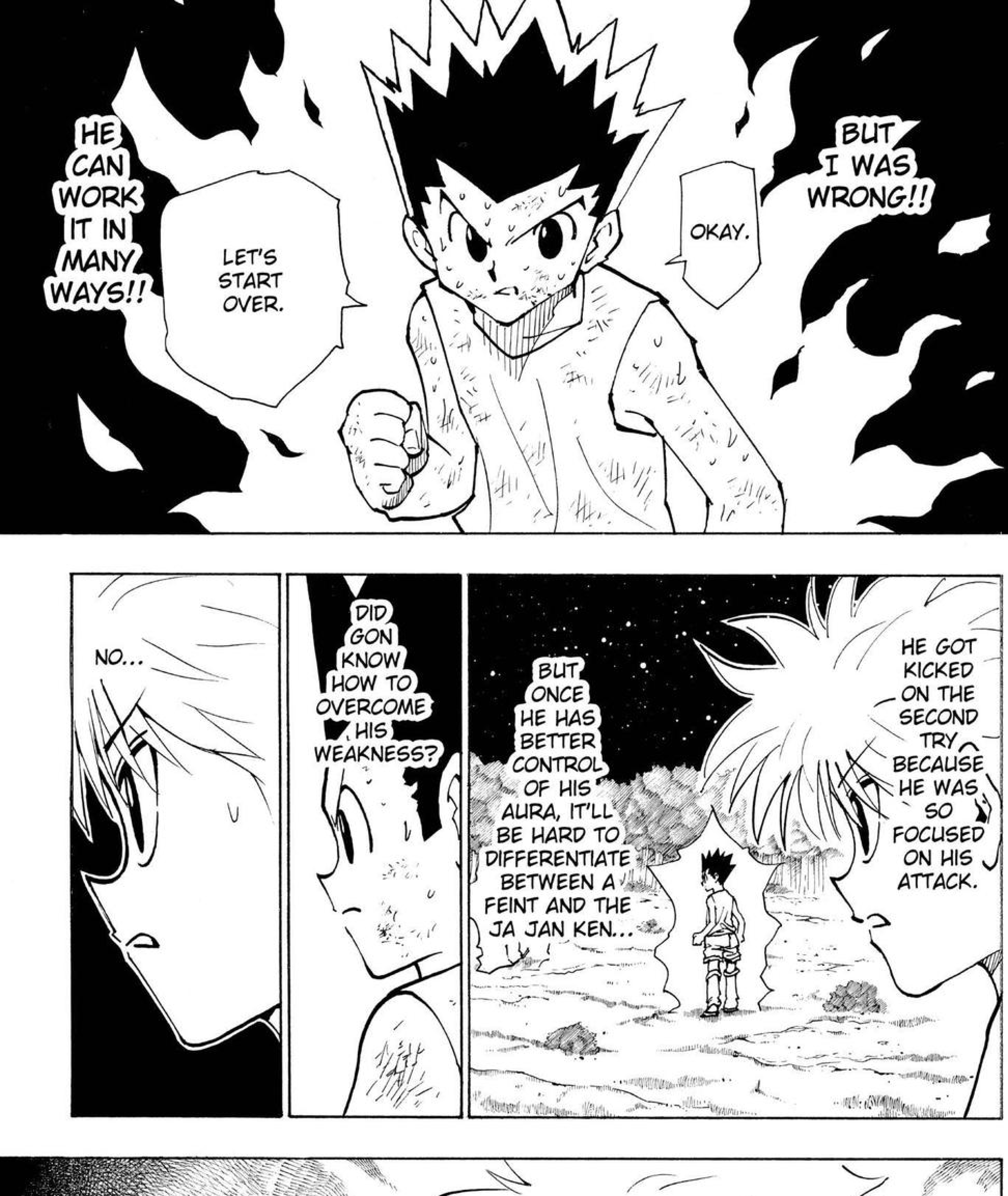

WHIFF!!
SHF
OVER HERE.
WHAP
WHAM
UNH!
WOBBLE

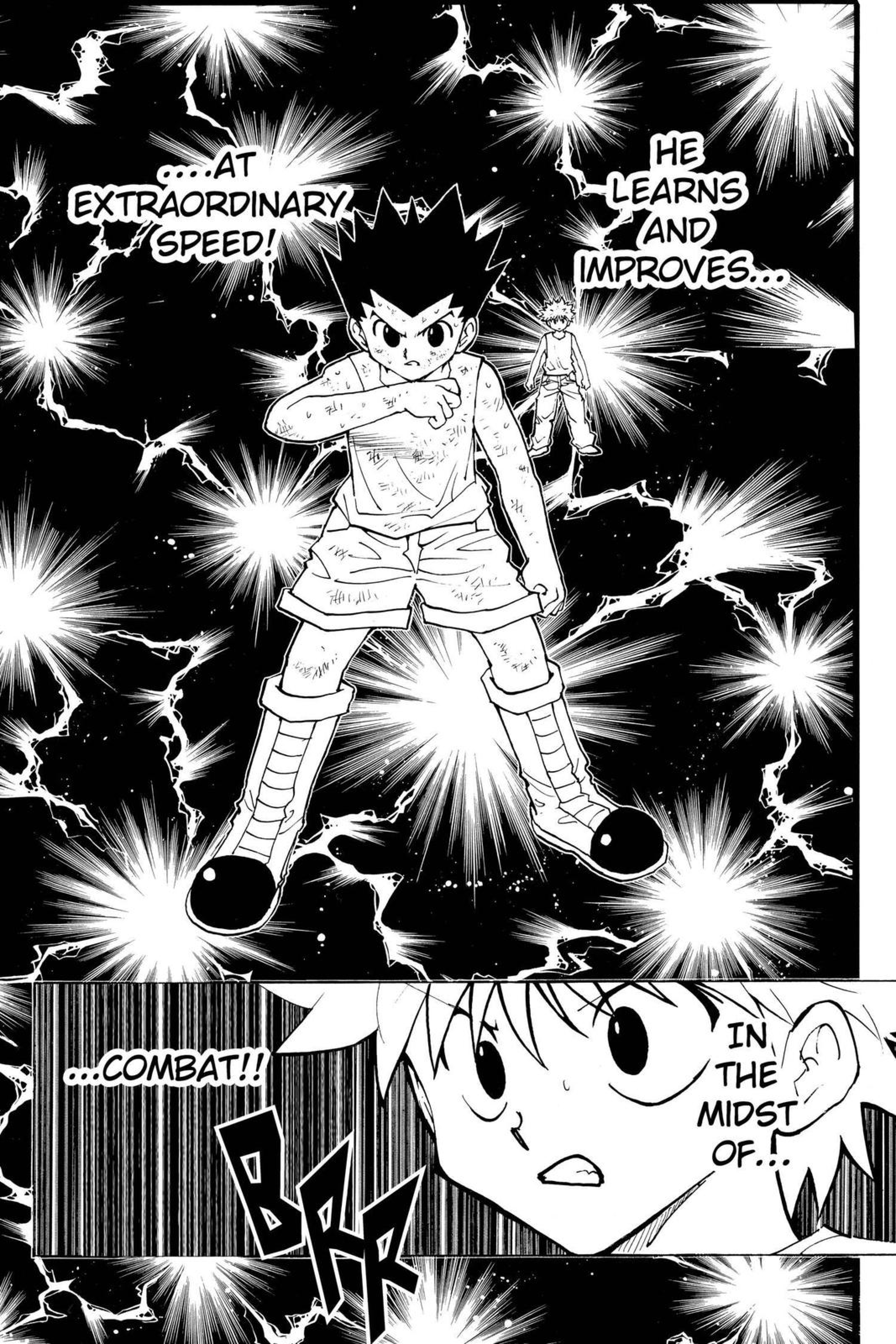

GAH!
HACK!
SHP
SHOW ME...
ROCK!
JAN!!
KEH--
TWOK


THUD
OFF
WMP
UNH!
THE PUNK USED HIS JA JAN KEN...
...AS A FEINT!
IT WAS OBVIOUS YOU WERE TRYING TO PREVENT ME FROM USING IT.
EVEN I COULD TELL WHEN YOU WERE ABOUT TO STRIKE WITH YOUR RIGHT.
SHF
HE USED HIS LONG WINDUP TO HIS ADVANTAGE...!
BY MESSING WITH THE ENEMY'S MIND!

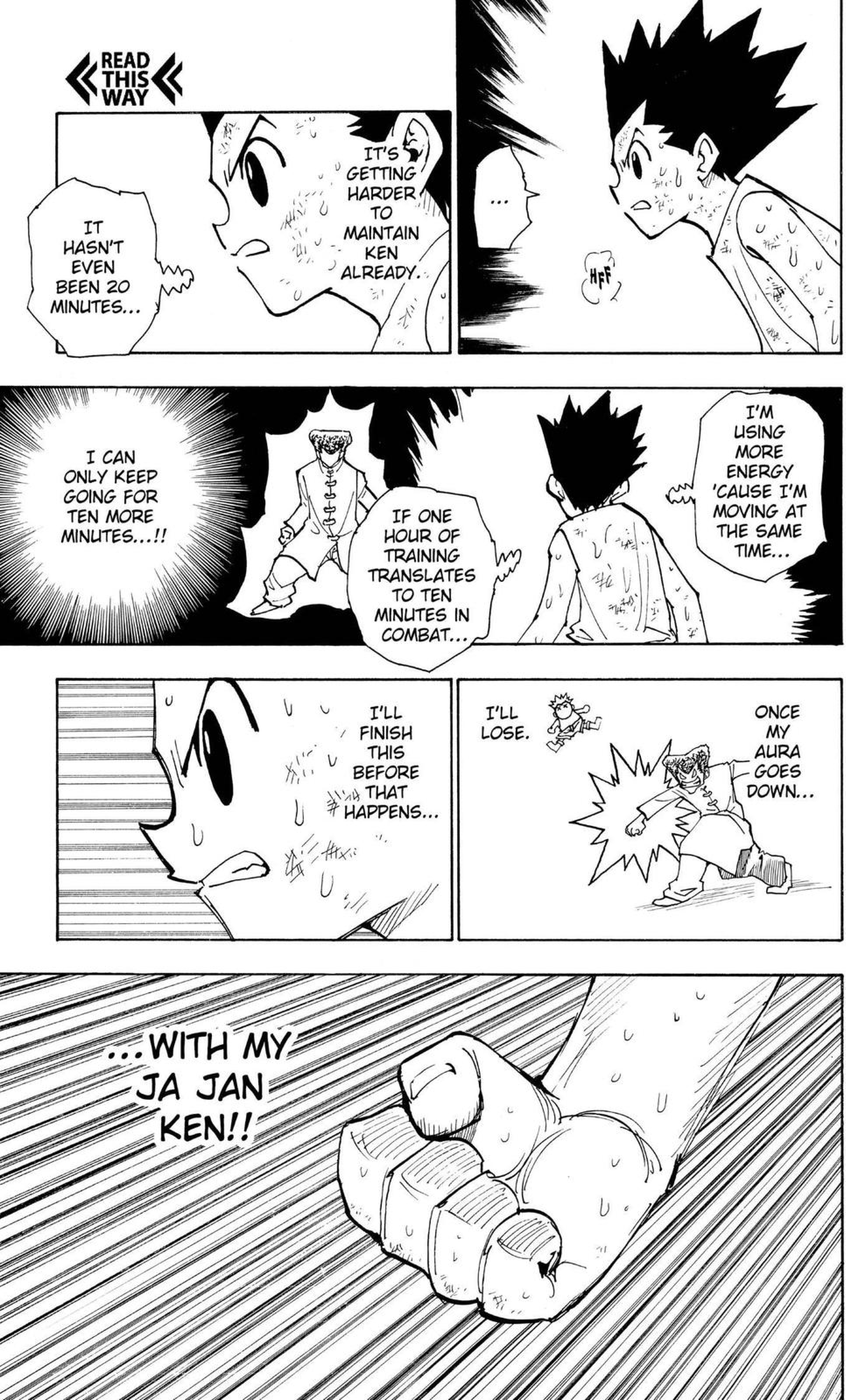

FOR KNUCKLE, GON'S JA JAN KEN IS LIKE THE PITCH HE'S LOOKING FOR...
IT CAN'T BE PASSED OVER!! IT'S THE PERFECT PITCH OVER THE MIDDLE OF THE PLATE THAT HE *HAS* TO HIT!!
THEN HE TRIES *TOO* HARD.
HE TENSES UP WHEN HE THINKS IT'S COMING.
THE *NEED* TO HIT...
...TENSES UP THE MUSCLES.
AND THEN ENDS UP WITH A POOR HIT.
IT EVEN HAPPENS TO MAJOR LEAGUERS.
7
THE SAME GOES FOR AURA.
UNLESS HE CONSCIOUSLY HOLDS IT BACK, AURA FOCUSES WHERE HE TENSES UP AND BALLOONS THE MOMENT HE TRIES TO STRIKE.

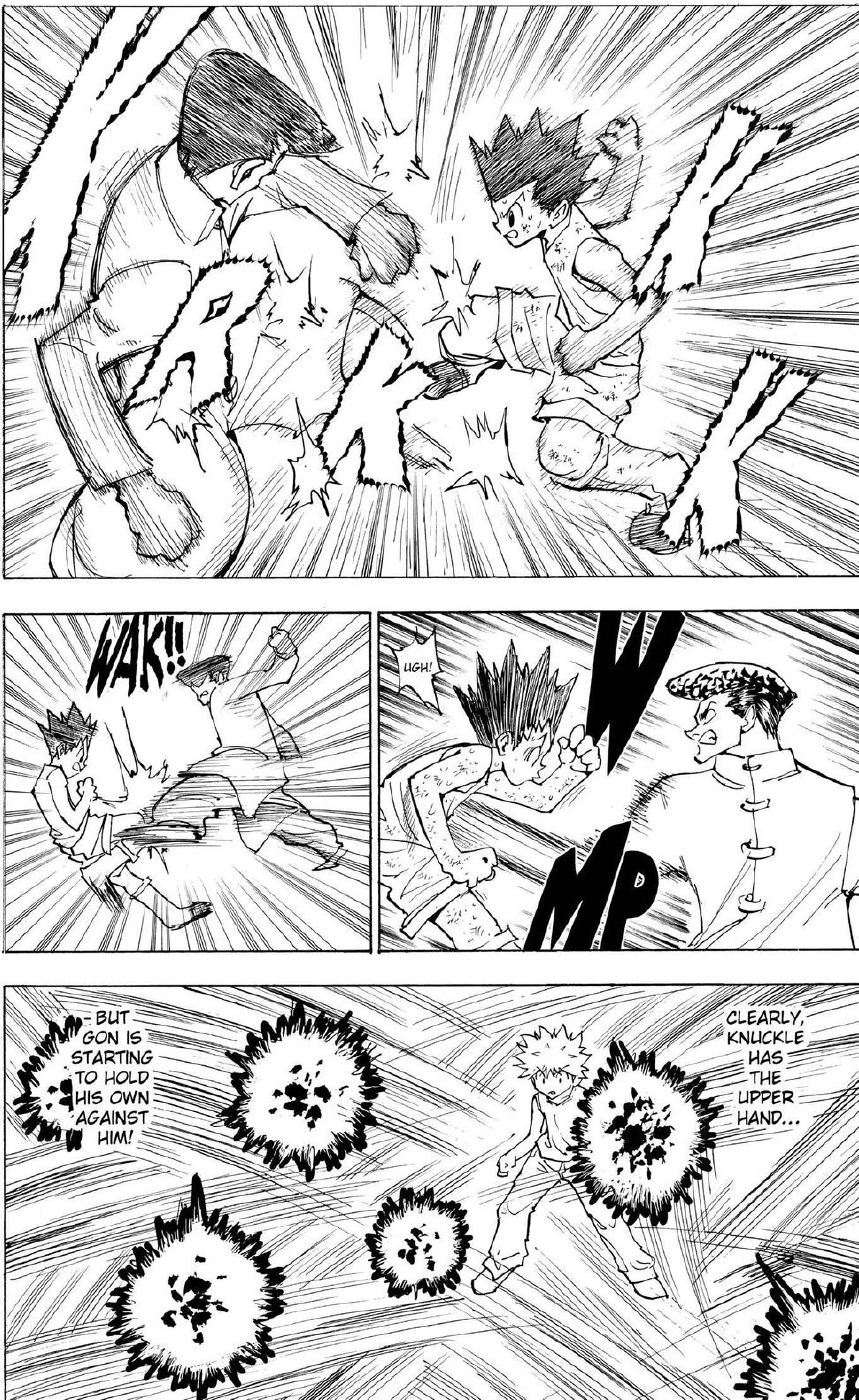

IF THE PERSON IS INEXPERIENCED OR LOSES HIS COOL, THE AURA FLOW BETRAYS HIM.
THE RIGHT IS A FEINT, SO IT'LL BE HIS LEFT...
IT REVEALS WHAT ATTACK IS COMING.
GON POINTED OUT KNUCKLE'S SOFT SIDE TO UPSET HIM...
WE'RE FIGHTING FOR REAL, AREN'T WE?
SHOW ME...
...WHICH MADE THE FEINT SUCCESSFUL!
DO IT LIKE YOU'RE GONNA KILL ME!!
KNUCKLE!!
ROCK!!
THIS PLAN...
...IS MORE EFFECTIVE ON SOMEONE WHO KNOWS JA JAN KEN.
WHEN GON INITIATES THE ATTACK...
...THE FEAR OF WHAT'S COMING MESSES WITH THE MIND.
IT MAKES THE FEINT MUCH MORE EFFECTIVE.
IF THE OPPONENT JUMPS BACK, GON CAN EASILY USE SCISSORS OR PAPER!!
I THOUGHT JA JAN KEN WOULD BE HARDER TO USE IF THE ENEMY KNEW ABOUT IT...

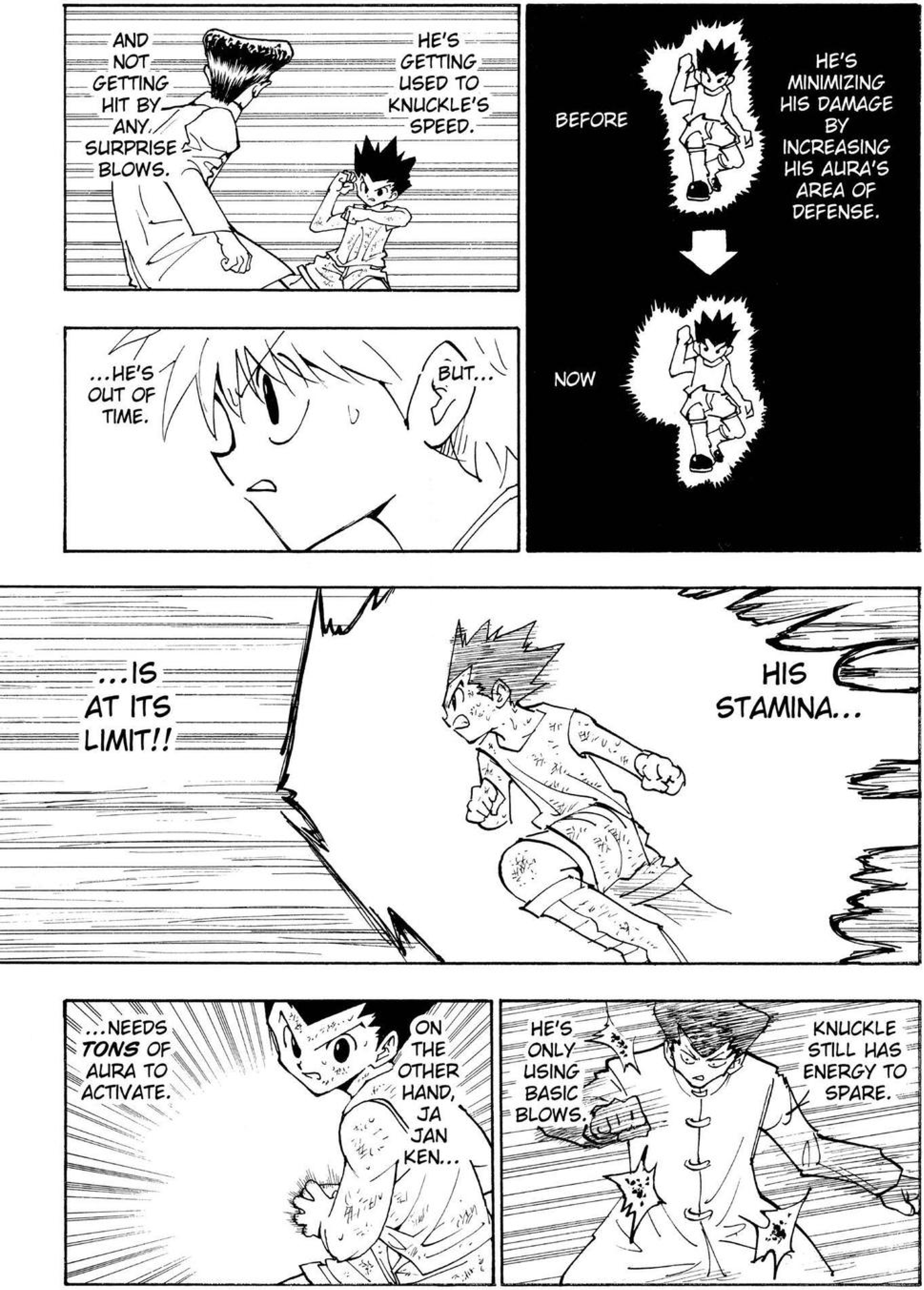

BUT I WAS WRONG!!
OKAY.
LET'S START OVER.
HE CAN WORK IT IN MANY WAYS!!
HE GOT KICKED ON THE SECOND TRY BECAUSE HE WAS SO FOCUSED ON HIS ATTACK.
BUT ONCE HE HAS BETTER CONTROL OF HIS AURA, IT'LL BE HARD TO DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN A FEINT AND THE JA JAN KEN...
DID GON KNOW HOW TO OVERCOME HIS WEAKNESS?
NO...
HE FIGURED IT OUT...
...DURING THE FIGHT!!

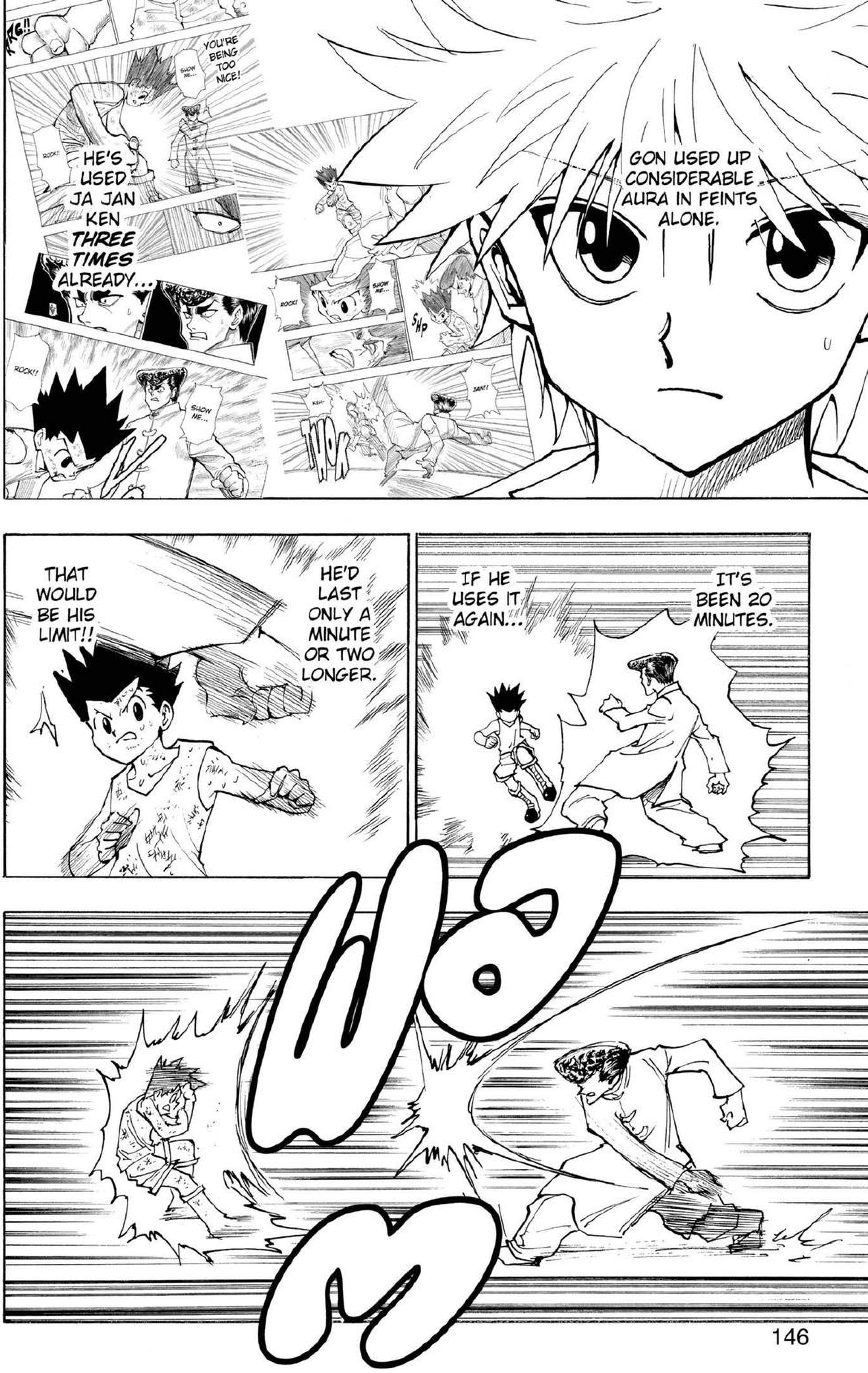

HE LEARNS AND IMPROVES...
....AT EXTRAORDINARY SPEED!
IN THE MIDST OF...
...COMBAT!!
BRR

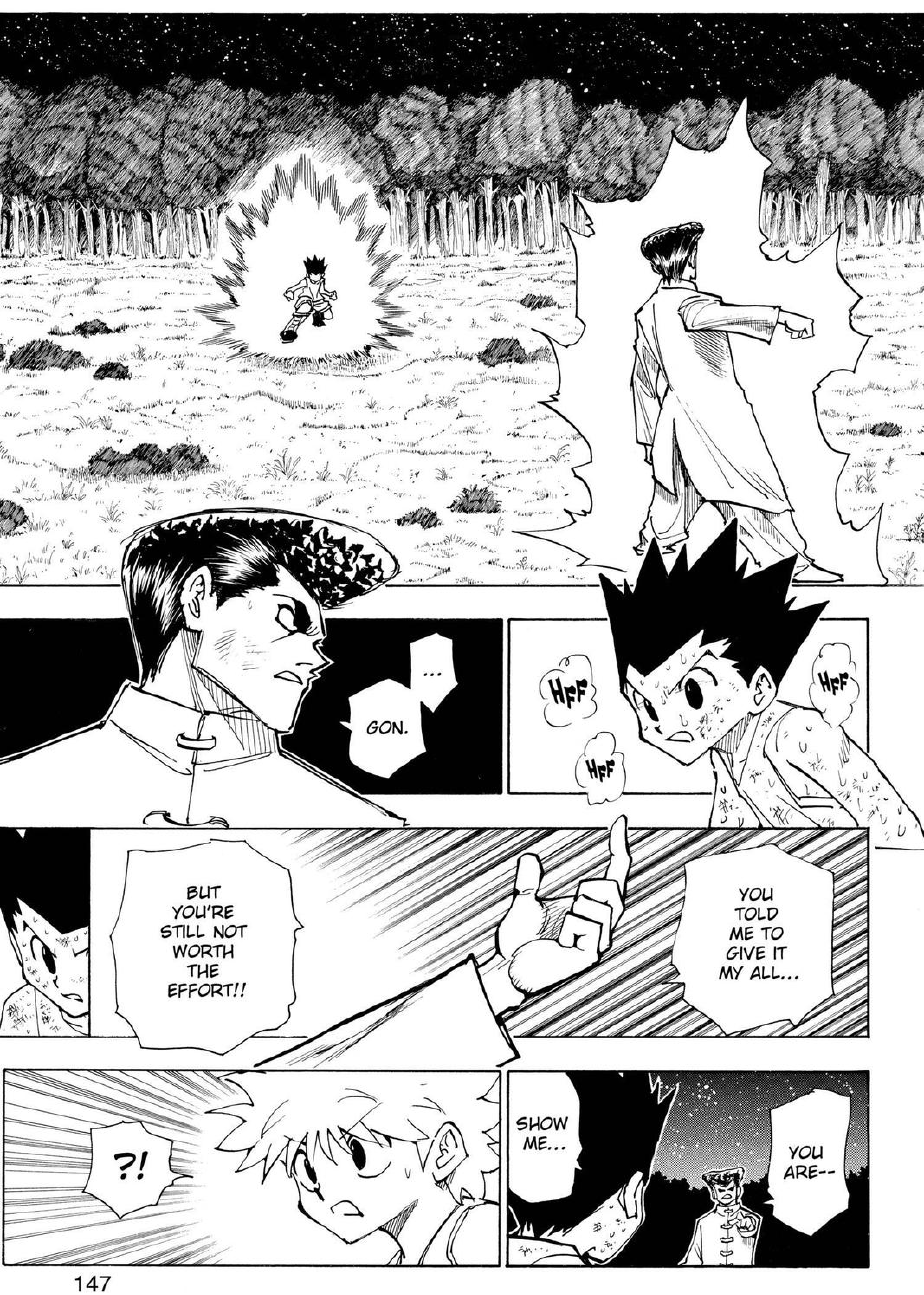
READ THIS WAY

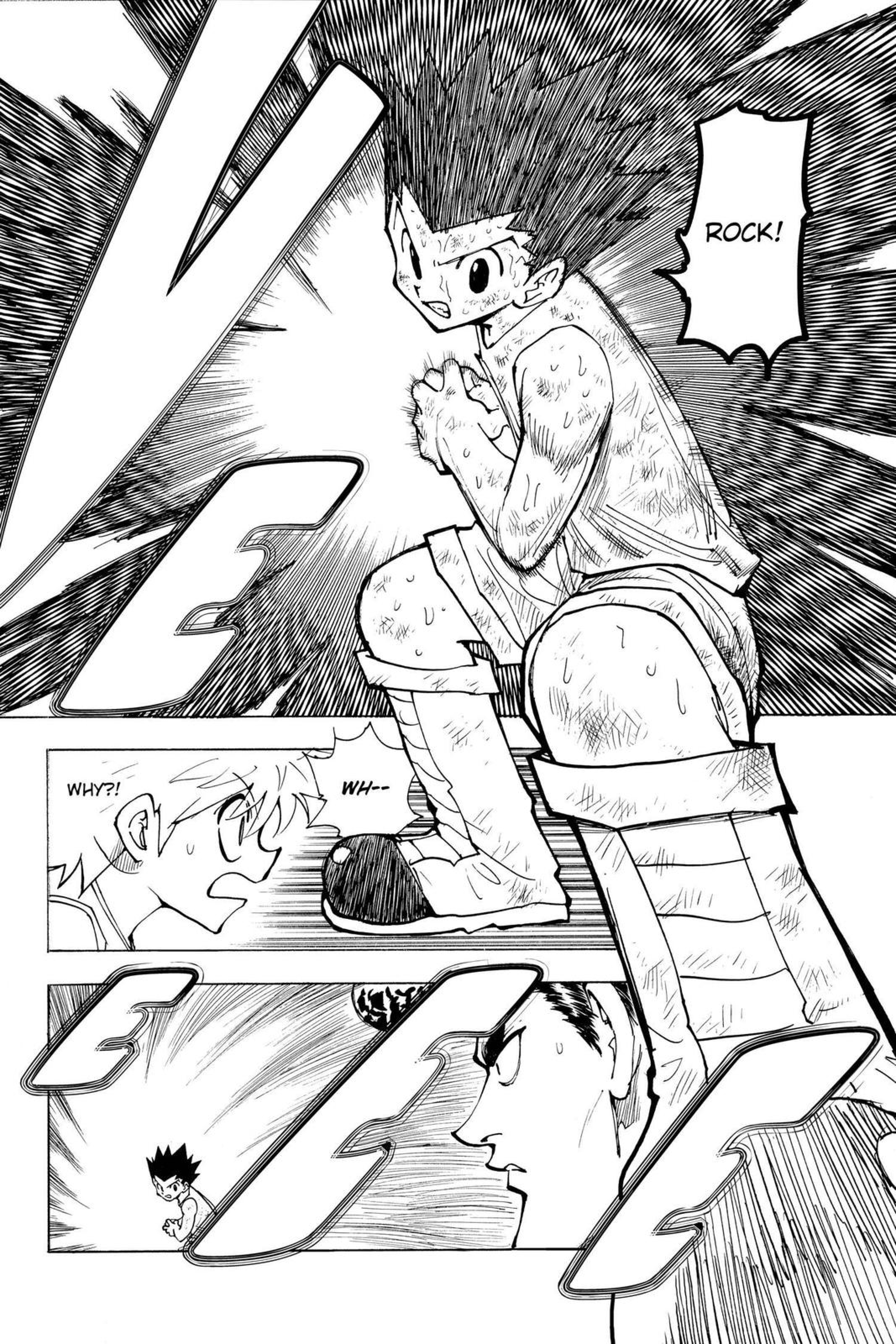

...
HFF
IT'S GETTING HARDER TO MAINTAIN KEN ALREADY.
IT HASN'T EVEN BEEN 20 MINUTES...
I'M USING MORE ENERGY 'CAUSE I'M MOVING AT THE SAME TIME...
IF ONE HOUR OF TRAINING TRANSLATES TO TEN MINUTES IN COMBAT...
I CAN ONLY KEEP GOING FOR TEN MORE MINUTES...!!
ONCE MY AURA GOES DOWN...
I'LL LOSE.
I'LL FINISH THIS BEFORE THAT HAPPENS...
...WITH MY JA JAN KEN!!

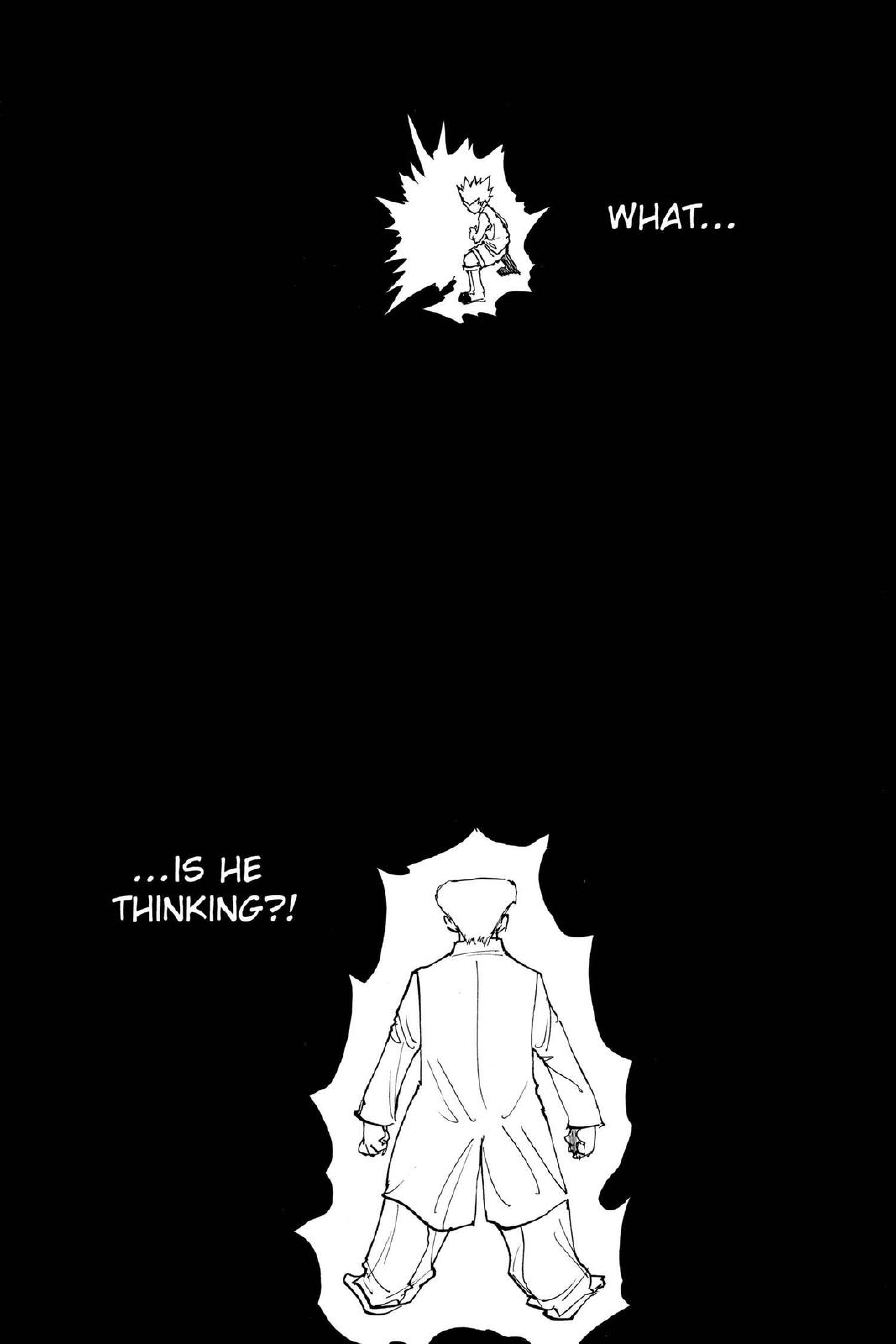

UGH!
WMP
WAK!!
CLEARLY, KNUCKLE HAS THE UPPER HAND...
-BUT GON IS STARTING TO HOLD HIS OWN AGAINST HIM!


HE'S MINIMIZING HIS DAMAGE BY INCREASING HIS AURA'S AREA OF DEFENSE.
BEFORE
NOW
HE'S GETTING USED TO KNUCKLE'S SPEED.
AND NOT GETTING HIT BY ANY SURPRISE BLOWS.
BUT...
...HE'S OUT OF TIME.
HIS STAMINA...
...IS AT ITS LIMIT!!
KNUCKLE STILL HAS ENERGY TO SPARE.
HE'S ONLY USING BASIC BLOWS.
ON THE OTHER HAND, JA JAN KEN...
...NEEDS *TONS* OF AURA TO ACTIVATE.

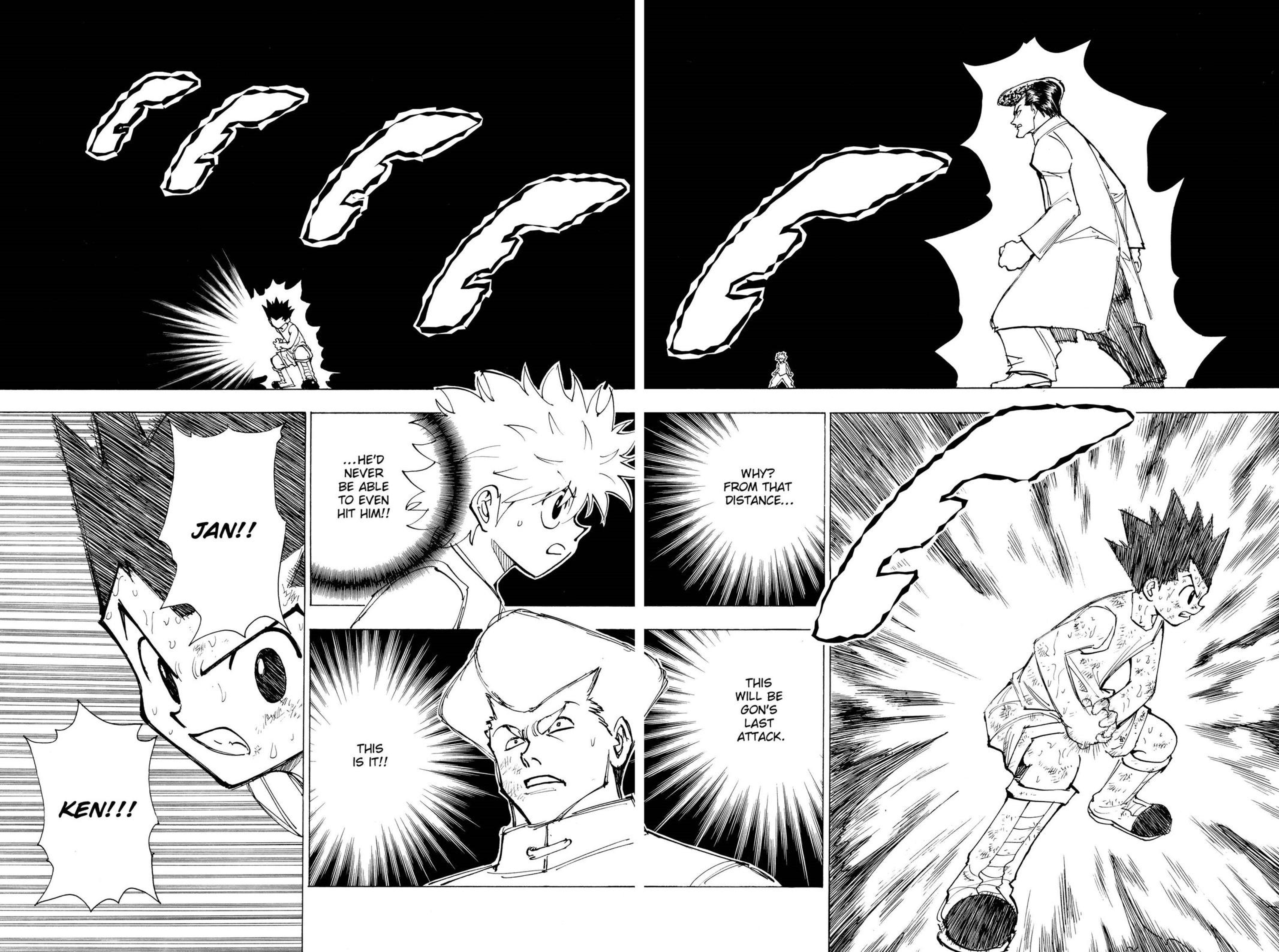

GON USED UP CONSIDERABLE AURA IN FEINTS ALONE.
HE'S USED JA JAN KEN *THREE TIMES* ALREADY...
ARG!!
YOU'RE BEING TOO NICE!
SHOW ME...
ROCK!!
SHOW ME...
ROCK!
SHP
ROCK!!
SHOW ME...
JAN!!
KEN-
THOK
IT'S BEEN 20 MINUTES.
IF HE USES IT AGAIN...
HE'D LAST ONLY A MINUTE OR TWO LONGER.
THAT WOULD BE HIS LIMIT!!
WHAM

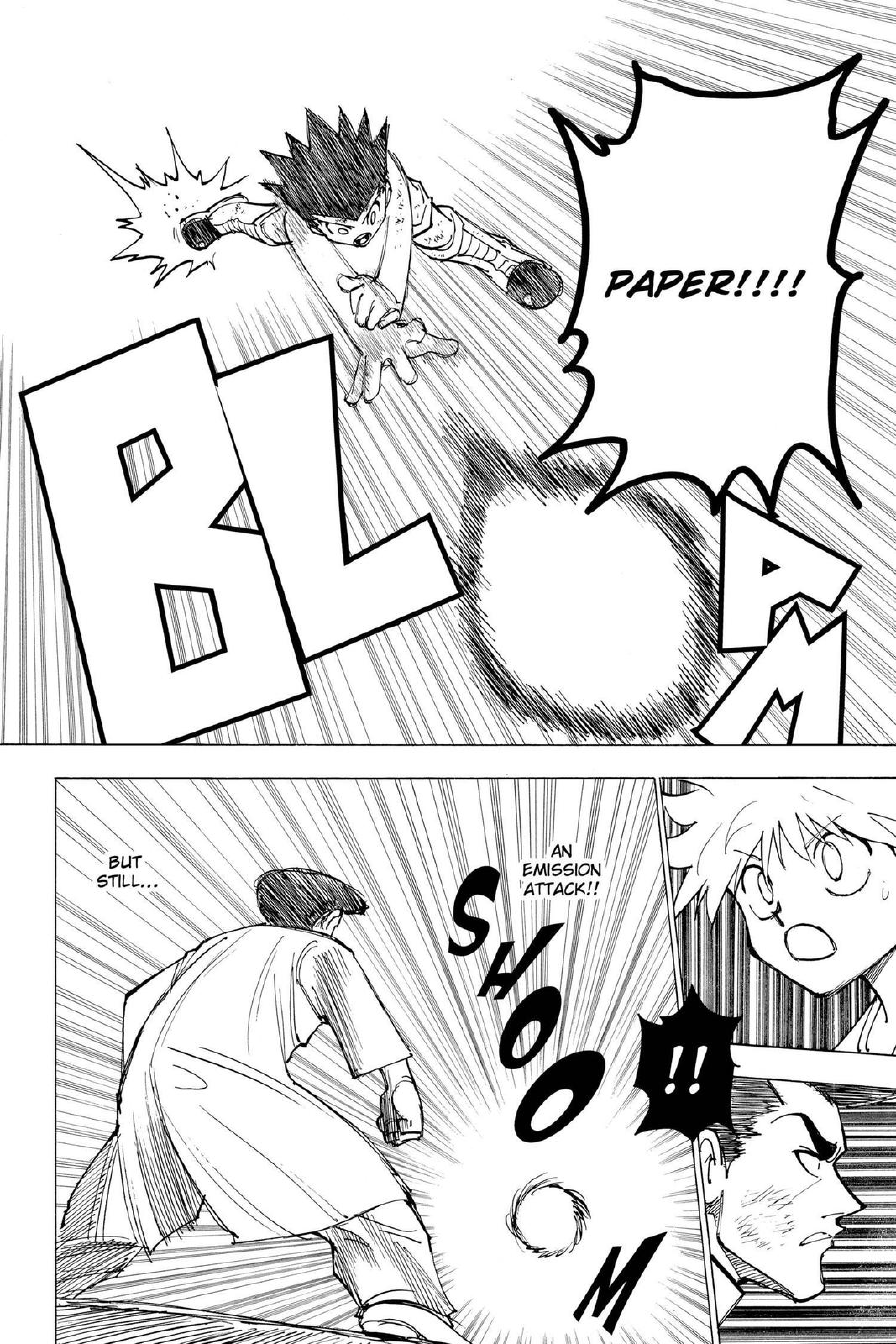

HFF
HFF
HFF
...
GON.
YOU TOLD ME TO GIVE IT MY ALL...
BUT YOU'RE STILL NOT WORTH THE EFFORT!!
YOU ARE--
SHOW ME...
?!

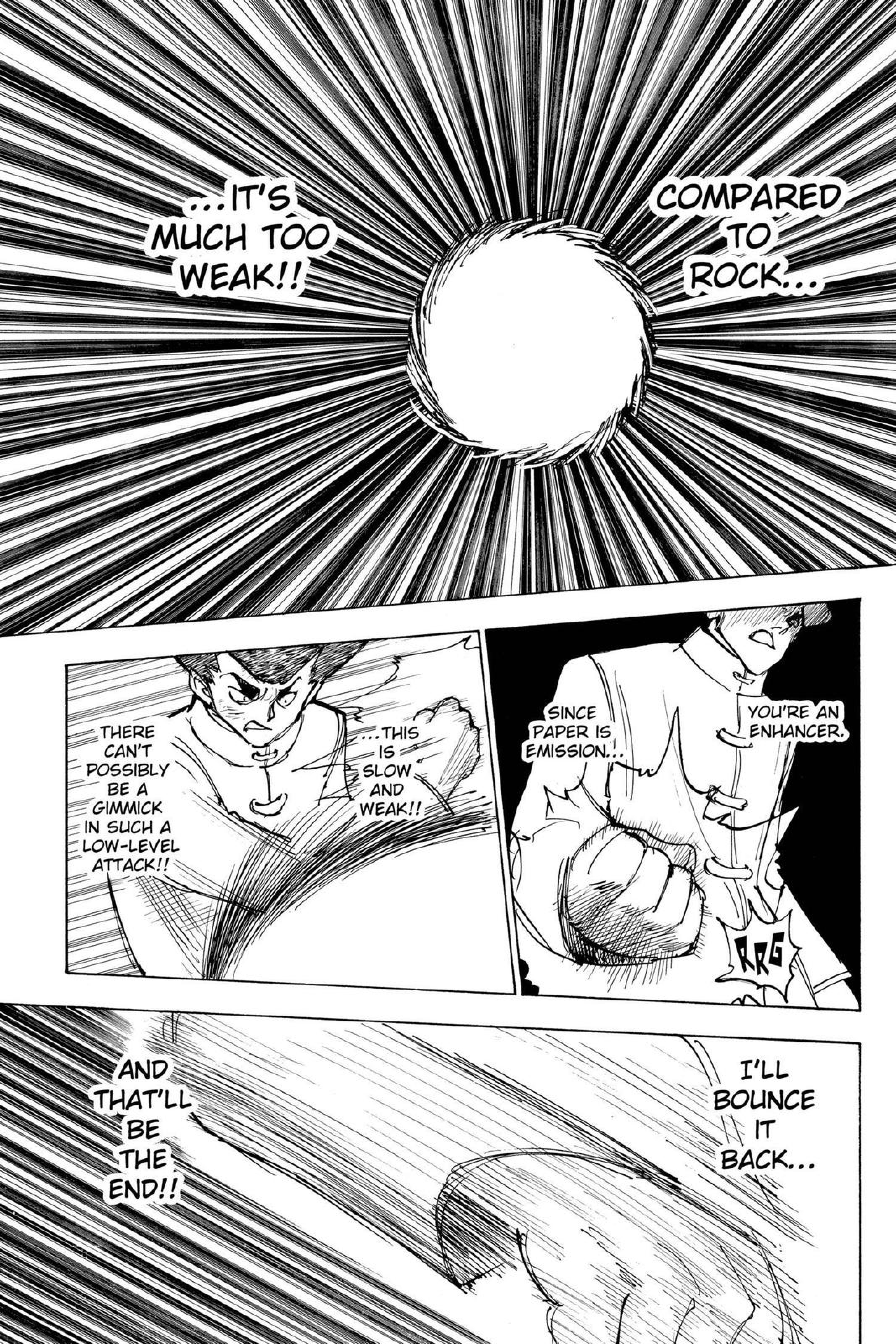

ROCK!
WH--
WHY?!

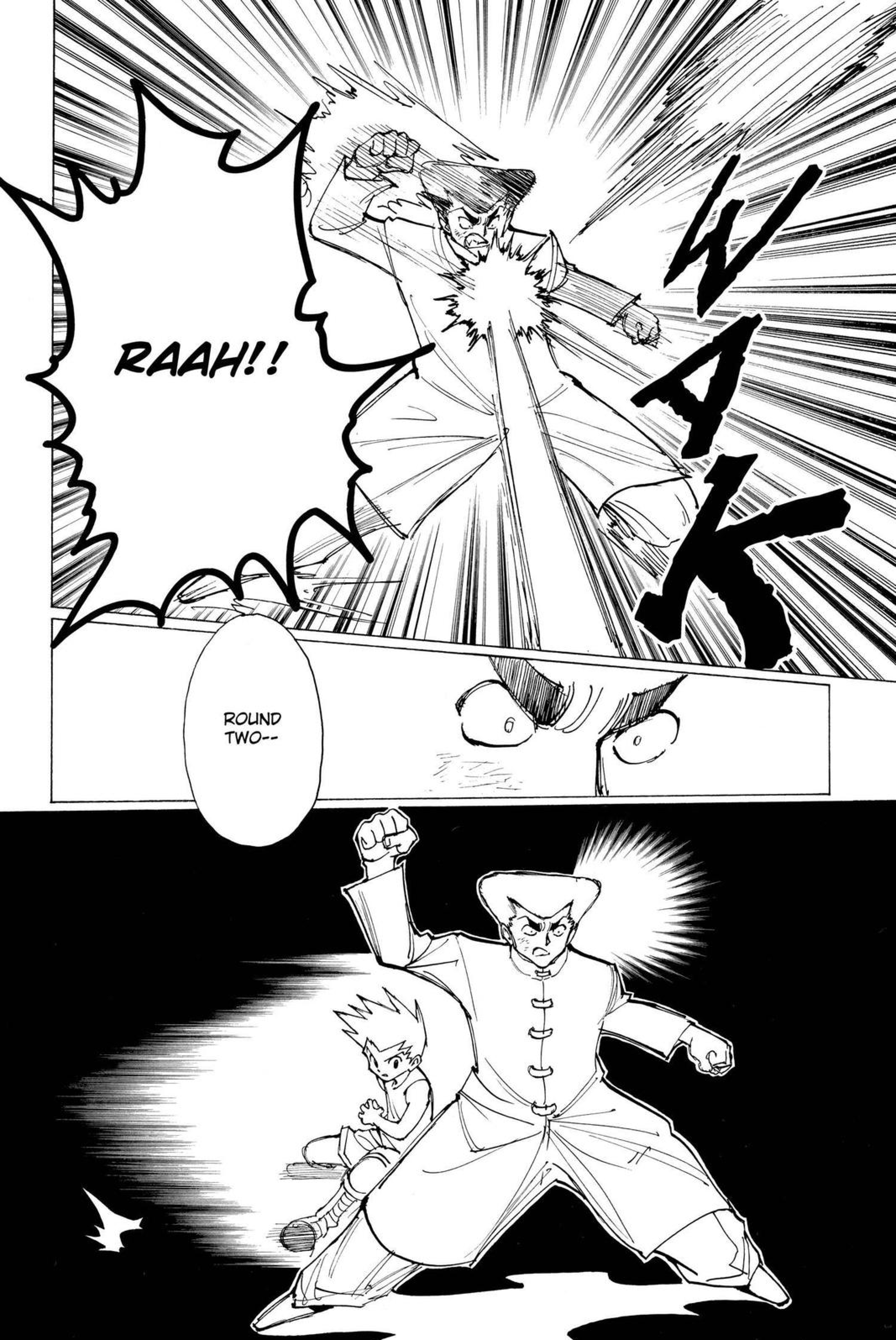

WHAT...
...IS HE THINKING?!

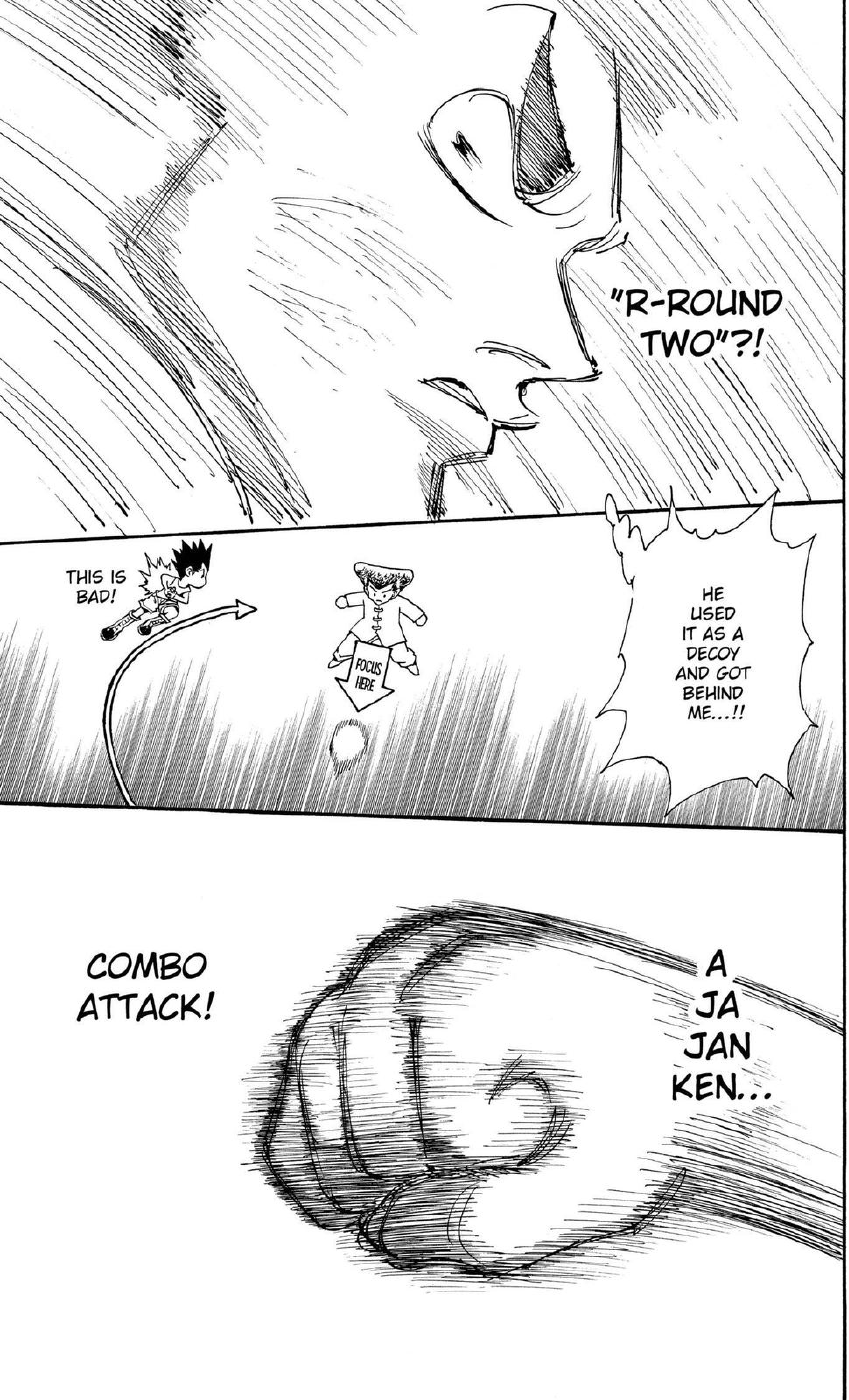
Chapter 209:
?

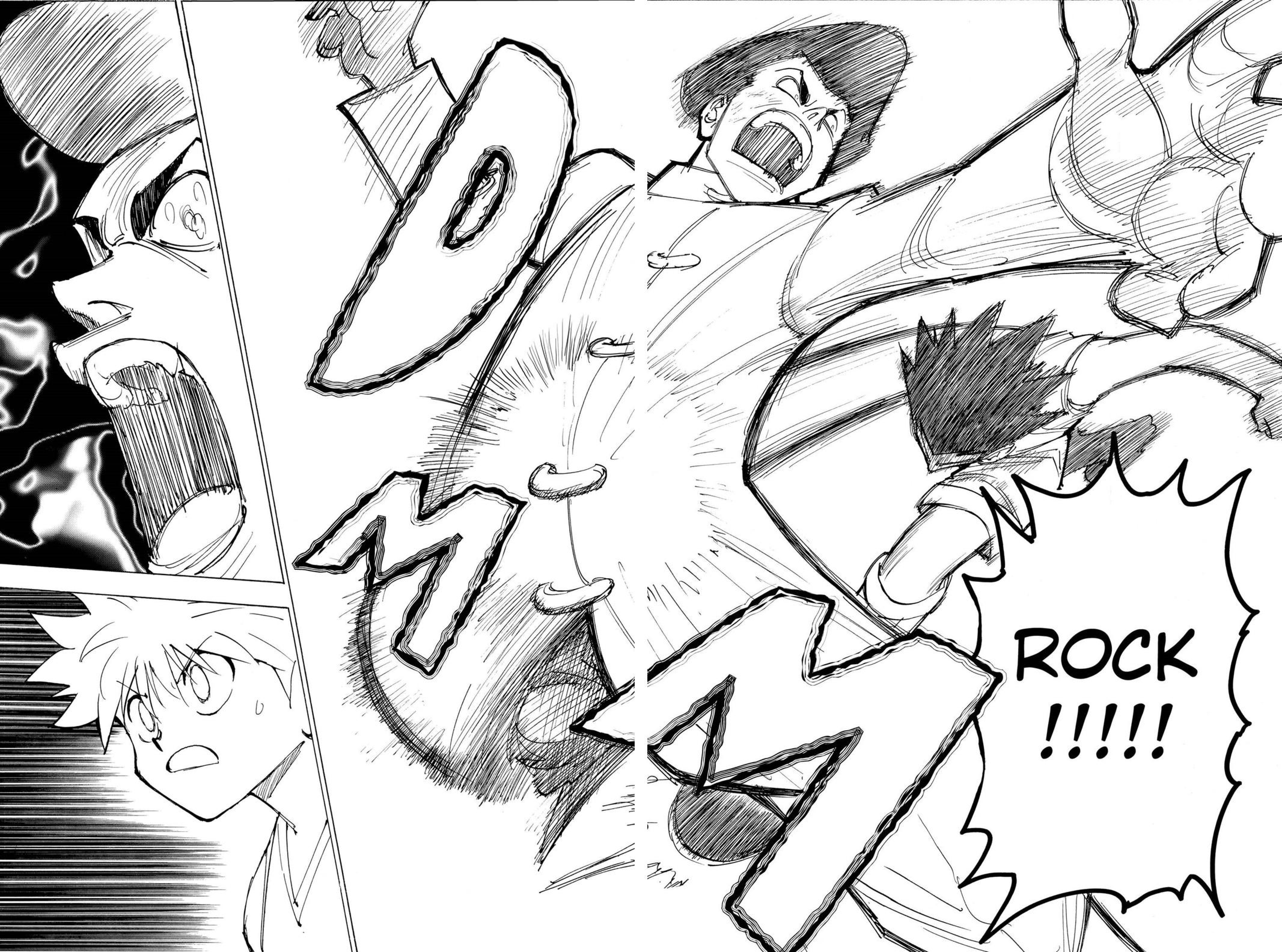

WHY? FROM THAT DISTANCE...
THIS WILL BE GON'S LAST ATTACK.
...HE'D NEVER BE ABLE TO EVEN HIT HIM!!
THIS IS IT!!
JAN!!
KEN!!!

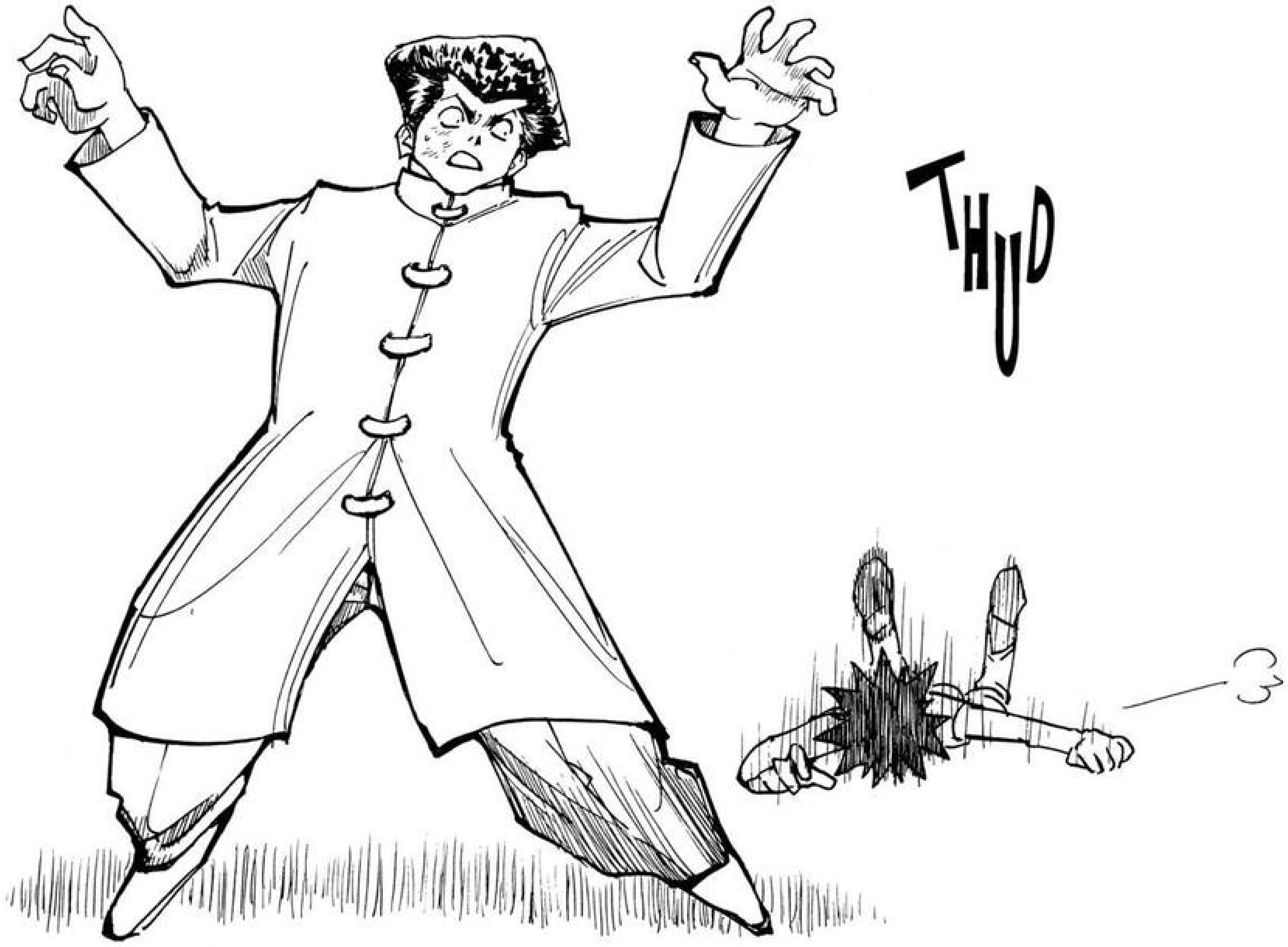

PAPER!!!!
BLAM
!!
AN EMISSION ATTACK!!
SHOOOM
BUT STILL...

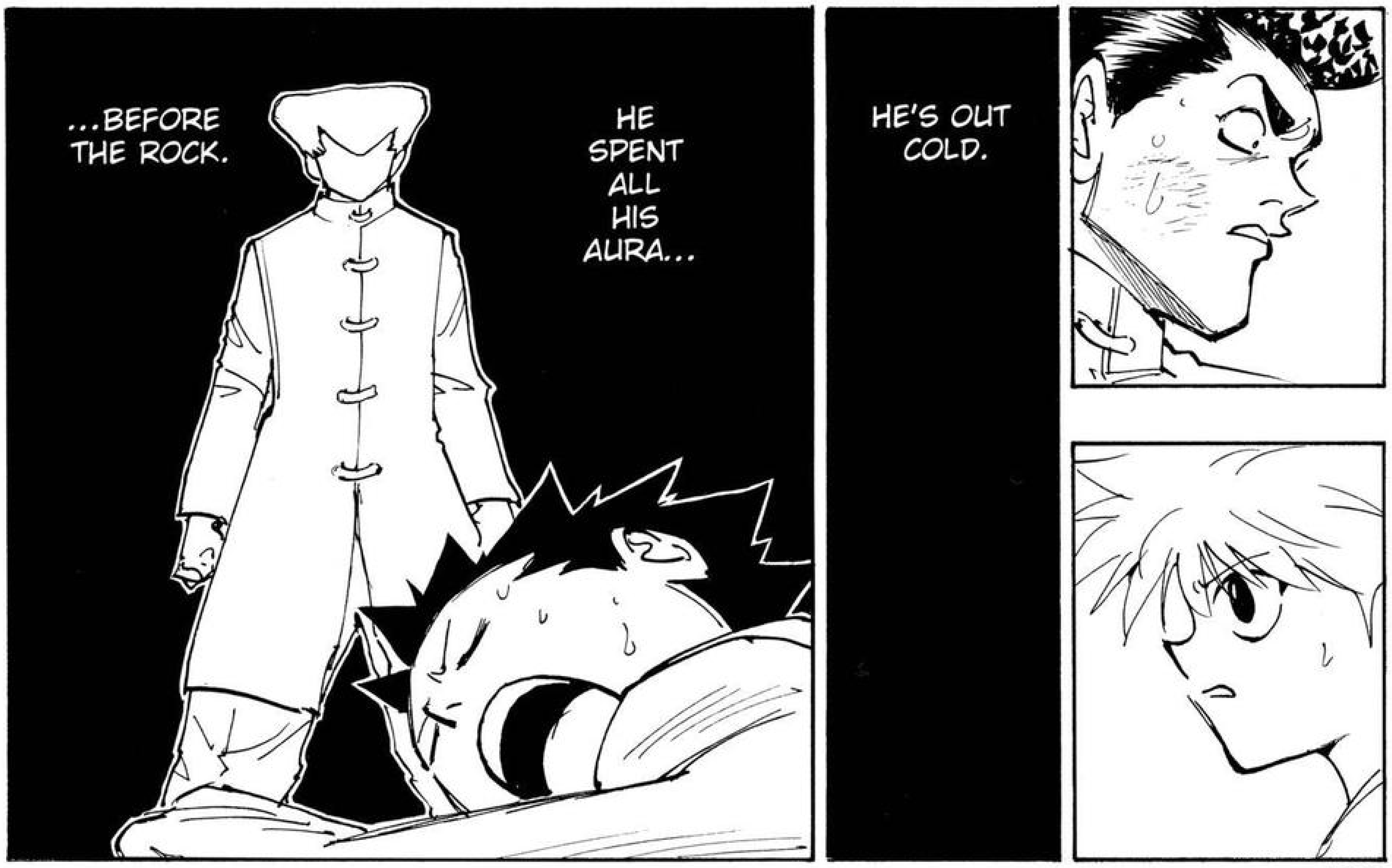

COMPARED TO ROCK...
...IT'S MUCH TOO WEAK!!
YOU'RE AN ENHANCER.
SINCE PAPER IS EMISSION...
RRG
...THIS IS SLOW AND WEAK!!
THERE CAN'T POSSIBLY BE A GIMMICK IN SUCH A LOW-LEVEL ATTACK!!
I'LL BOUNCE IT BACK...
AND THAT'LL BE THE END!!

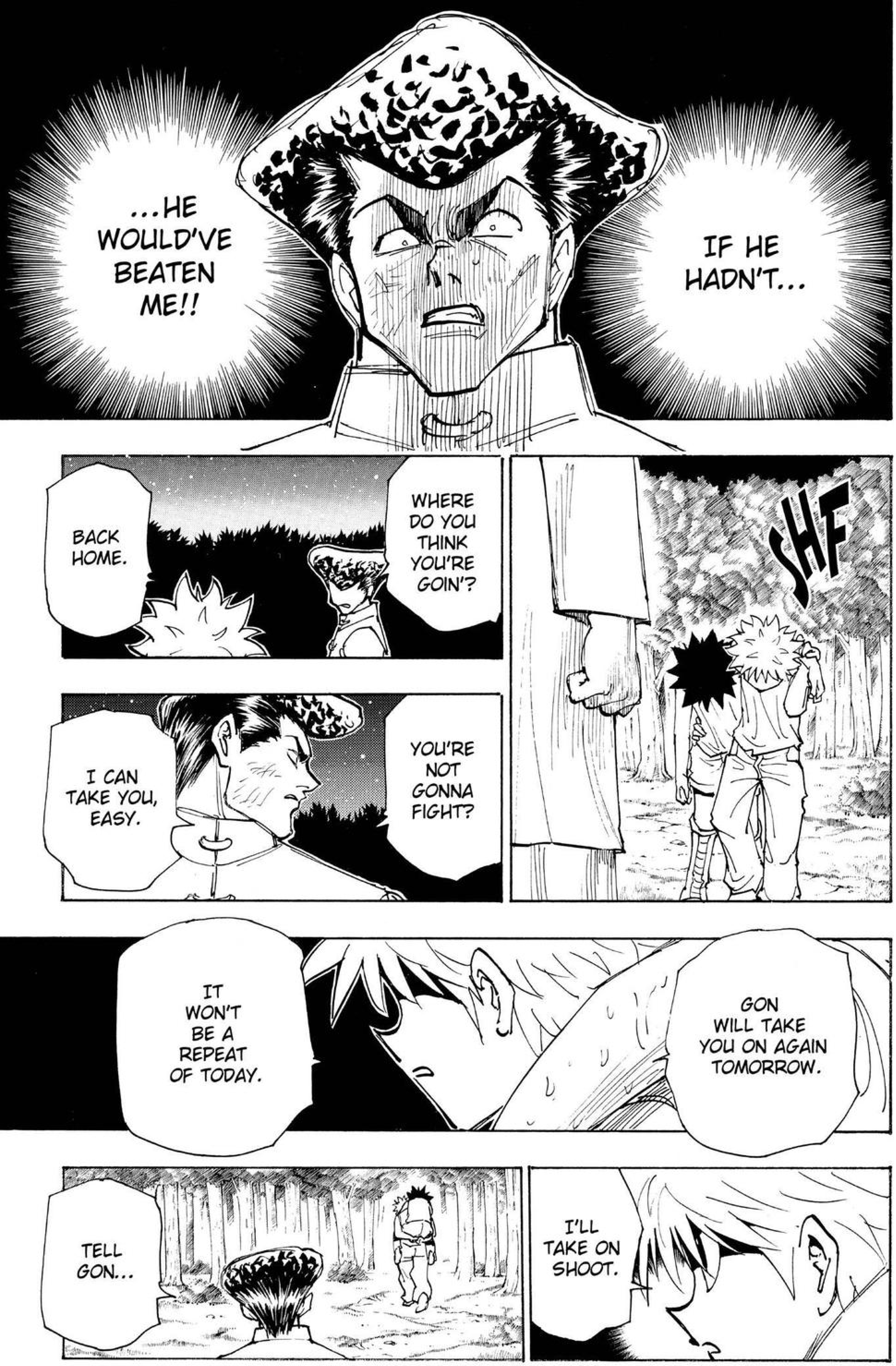

WAK
RAAH!!
ROUND TWO--

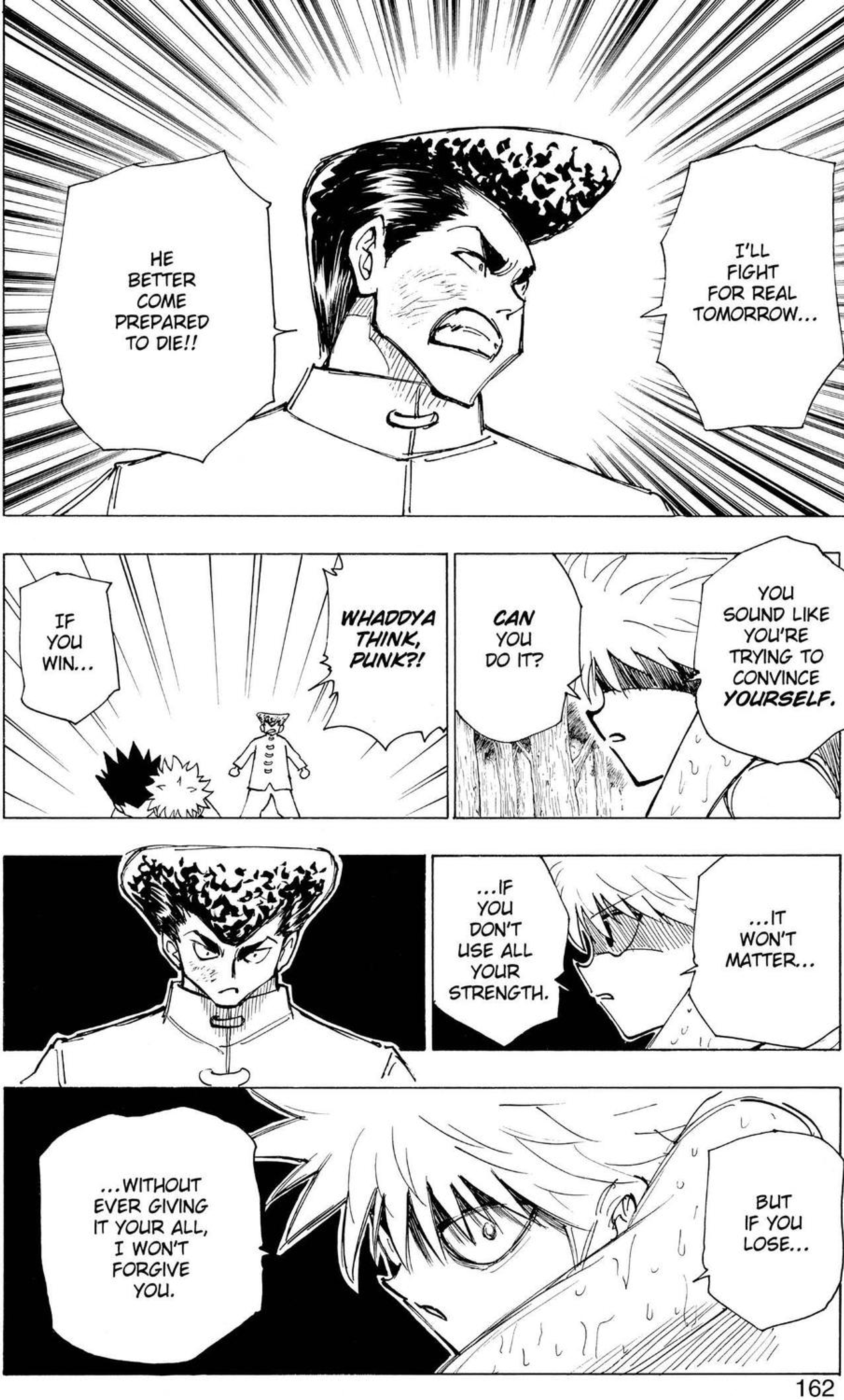

"R-ROUND TWO"?!
HE USED IT AS A DECOY AND GOT BEHIND ME...!!
THIS IS BAD!
FOCUS HERE
A JA JAN KEN...
COMBO ATTACK!

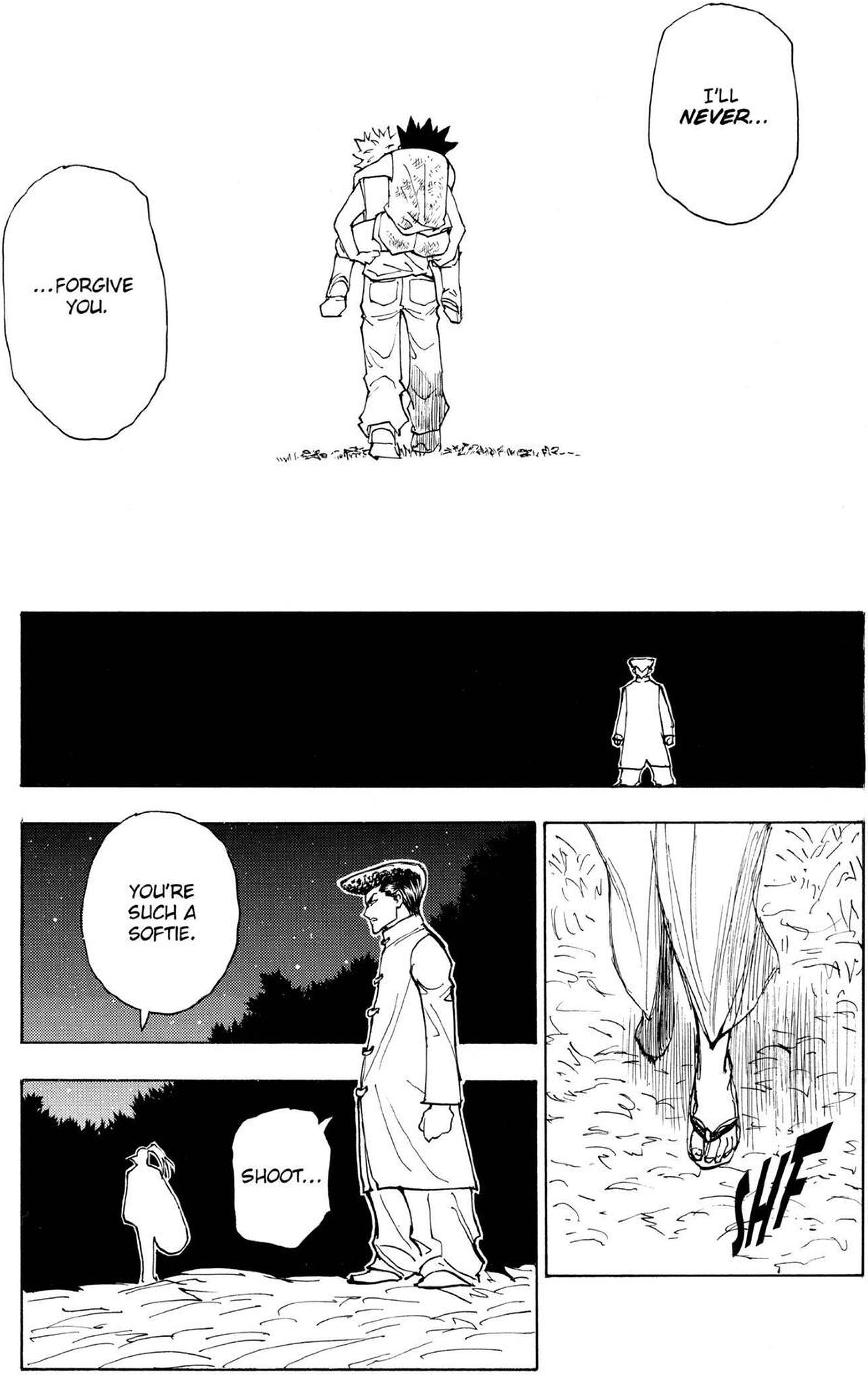

ROCK
!!!!!

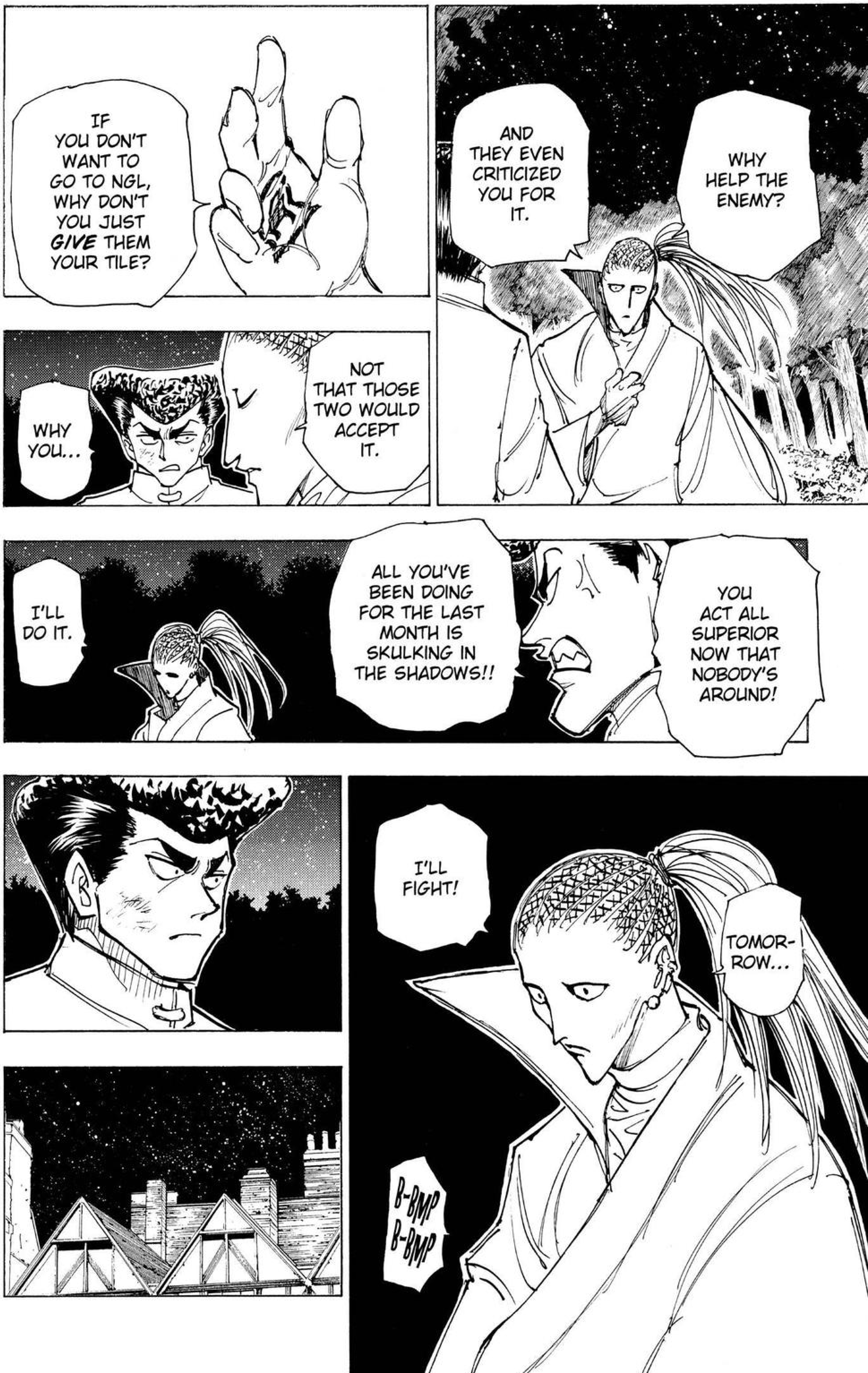

THUD

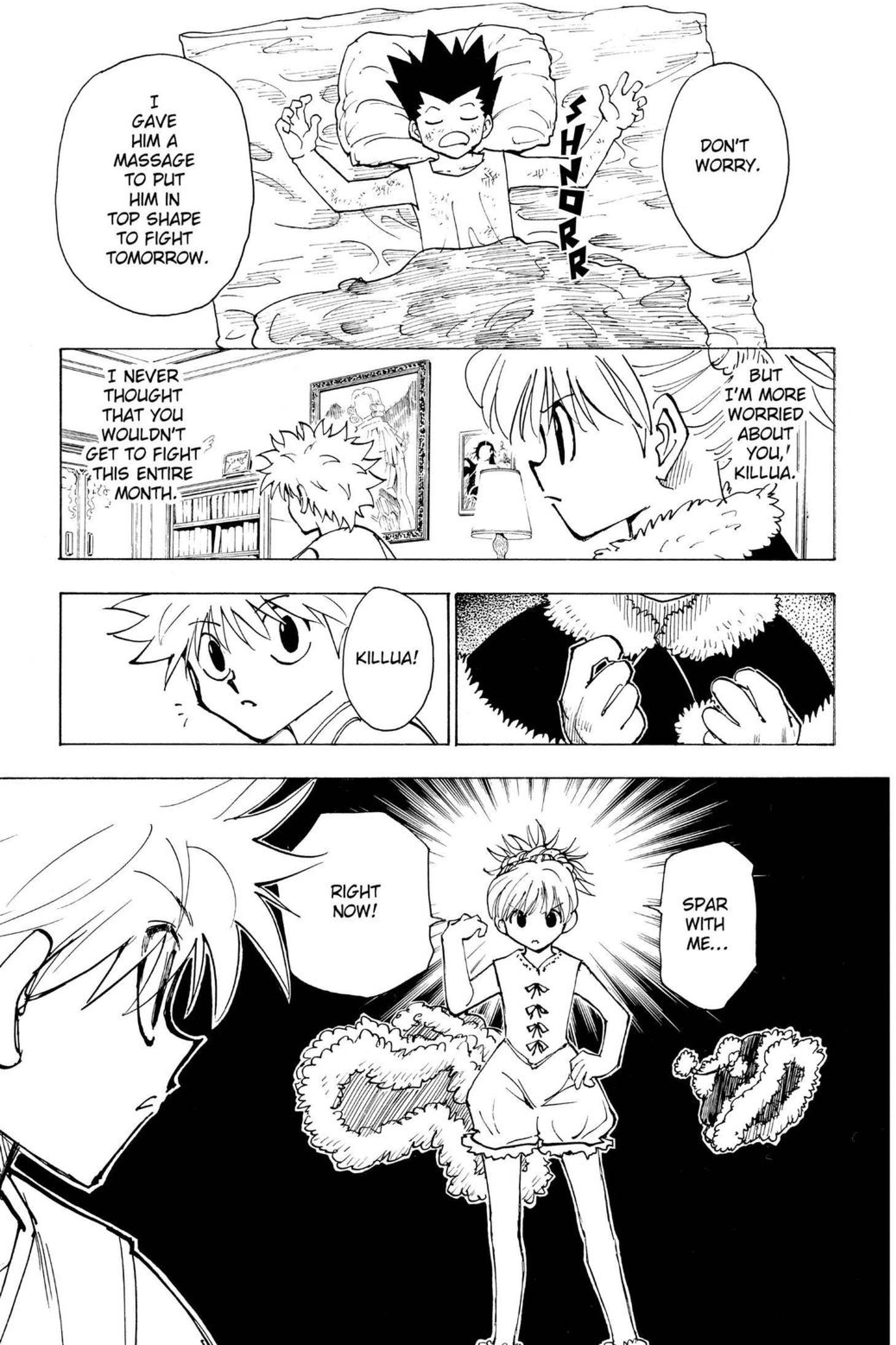

HE'S OUT COLD.
HE SPENT ALL HIS AURA...
...BEFORE THE ROCK.


IF HE HADN'T...
...HE WOULD'VE BEATEN ME!!
SHF
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOIN'?
BACK HOME.
YOU'RE NOT GONNA FIGHT?
I CAN TAKE YOU, EASY.
GON WILL TAKE YOU ON AGAIN TOMORROW.
IT WON'T BE A REPEAT OF TODAY.
I'LL TAKE ON SHOOT.
TELL GON...

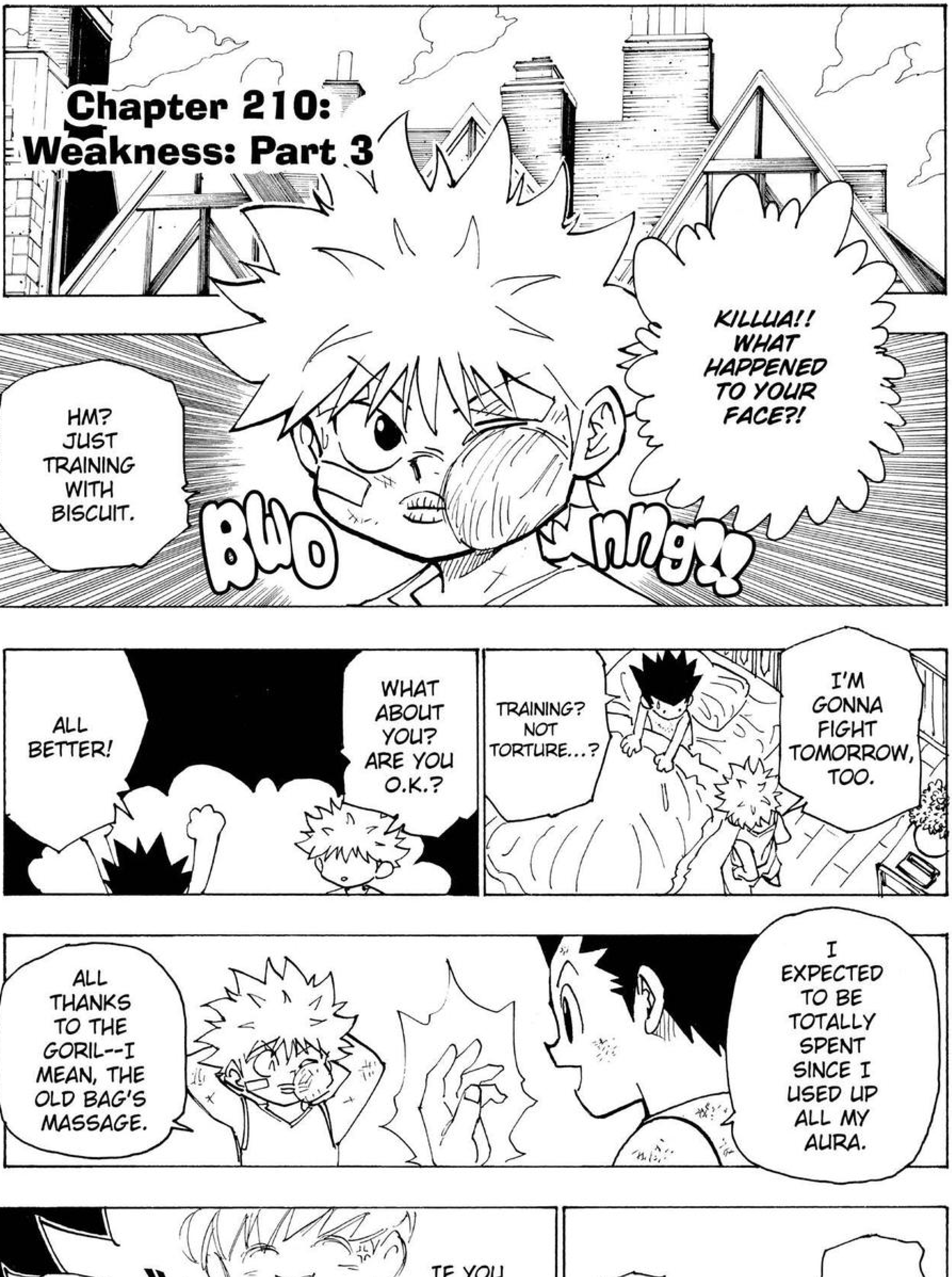

I'LL FIGHT FOR REAL TOMORROW...
HE BETTER COME PREPARED TO DIE!!
YOU SOUND LIKE YOU'RE TRYING TO CONVINCE *YOURSELF.*
CAN YOU DO IT?
WHADDYA THINK, PUNK?!
IF YOU WIN...
...IT WON'T MATTER...
...IF YOU DON'T USE ALL YOUR STRENGTH.
BUT IF YOU LOSE...
...WITHOUT EVER GIVING IT YOUR ALL, I WON'T FORGIVE YOU.

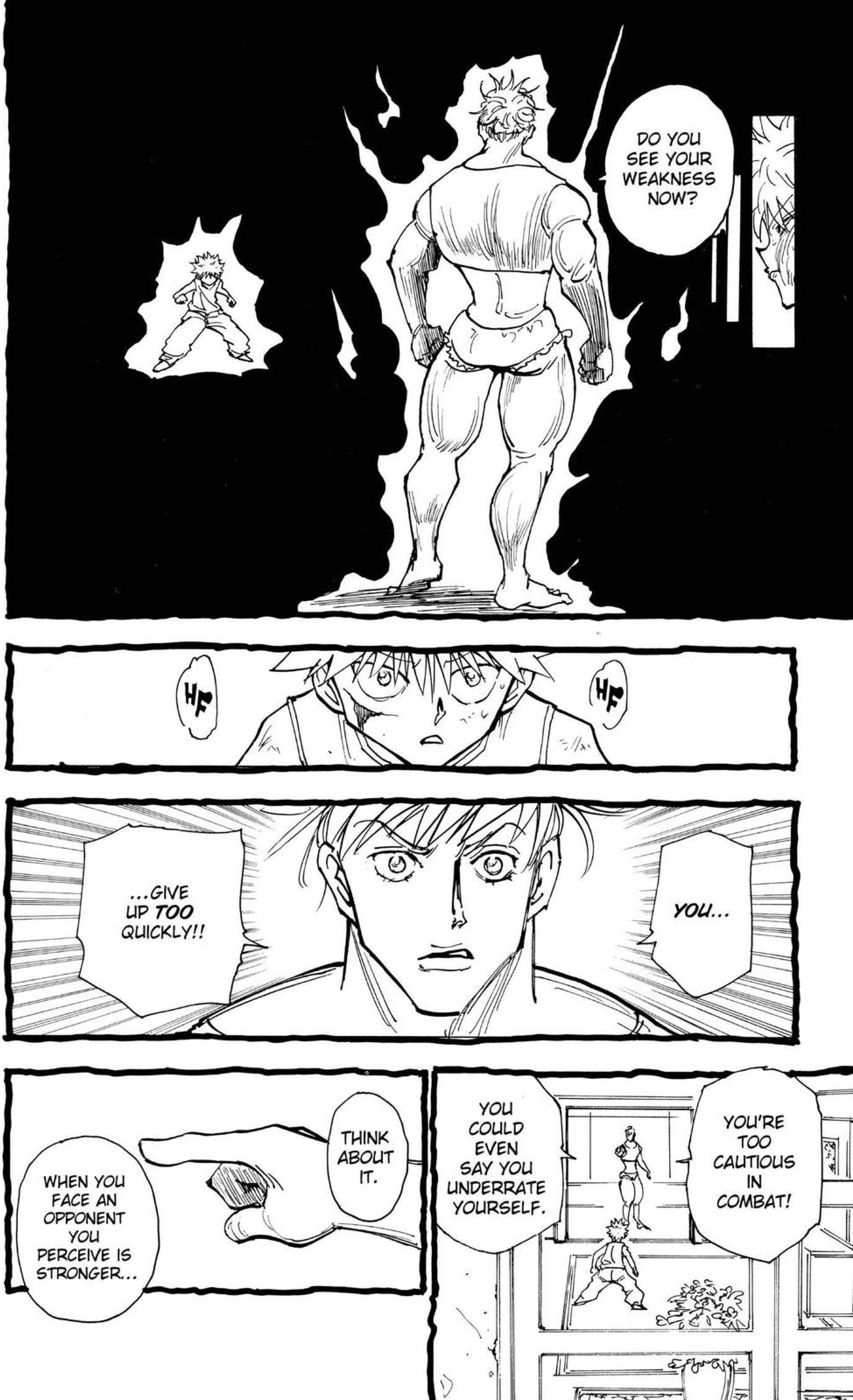

I'LL **NEVER**...
...FORGIVE YOU.
SHF
YOU'RE SUCH A SOFTIE.
SHOOT...

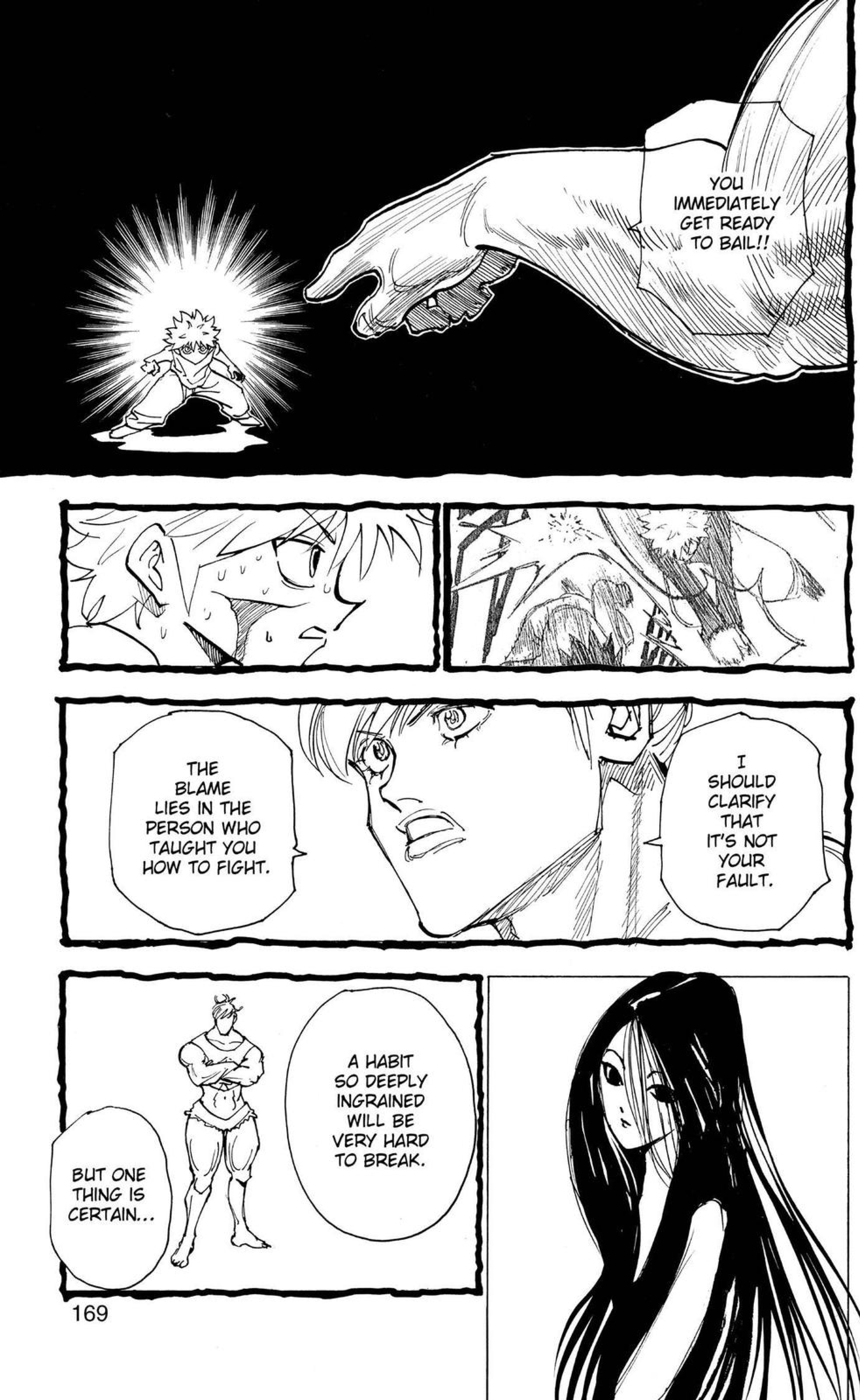

WHY HELP THE ENEMY?
AND THEY EVEN CRITICIZED YOU FOR IT.
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO GO TO NGL, WHY DON'T YOU JUST **GIVE** THEM YOUR TILE?
NOT THAT THOSE TWO WOULD ACCEPT IT.
WHY YOU...
YOU ACT ALL SUPERIOR NOW THAT NOBODY'S AROUND!
ALL YOU'VE BEEN DOING FOR THE LAST MONTH IS SKULKING IN THE SHADOWS!!
I'LL DO IT.
TOMORROW...
I'LL FIGHT!
B-BMP
B-BMP

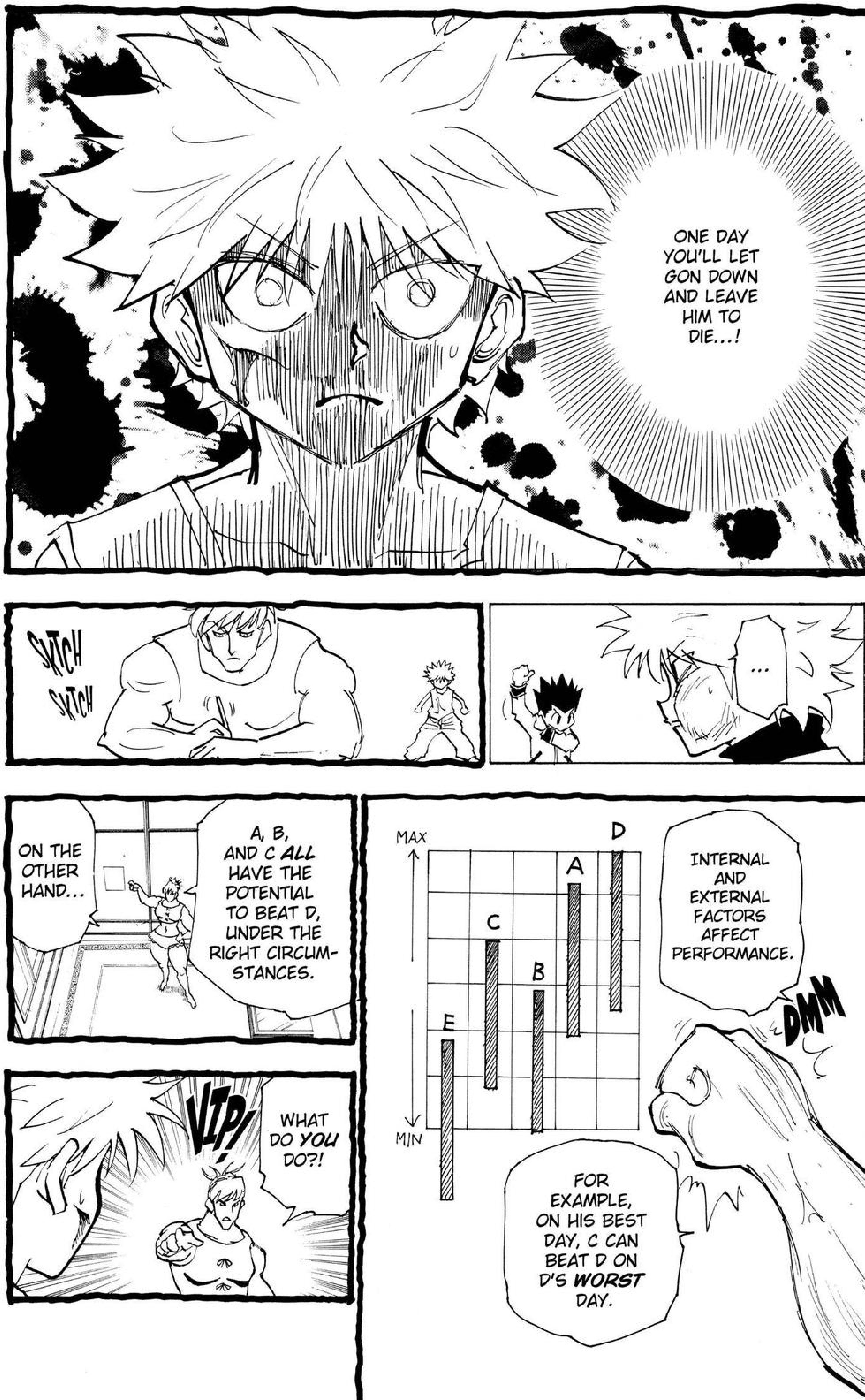

DON'T WORRY.
SHNORR
I GAVE HIM A MASSAGE TO PUT HIM IN TOP SHAPE TO FIGHT TOMORROW.
BUT I'M MORE WORRIED ABOUT YOU, KILLUA.
I NEVER THOUGHT THAT YOU WOULDN'T GET TO FIGHT THIS ENTIRE MONTH.
KILLUA!
SPAR WITH ME...
RIGHT NOW!

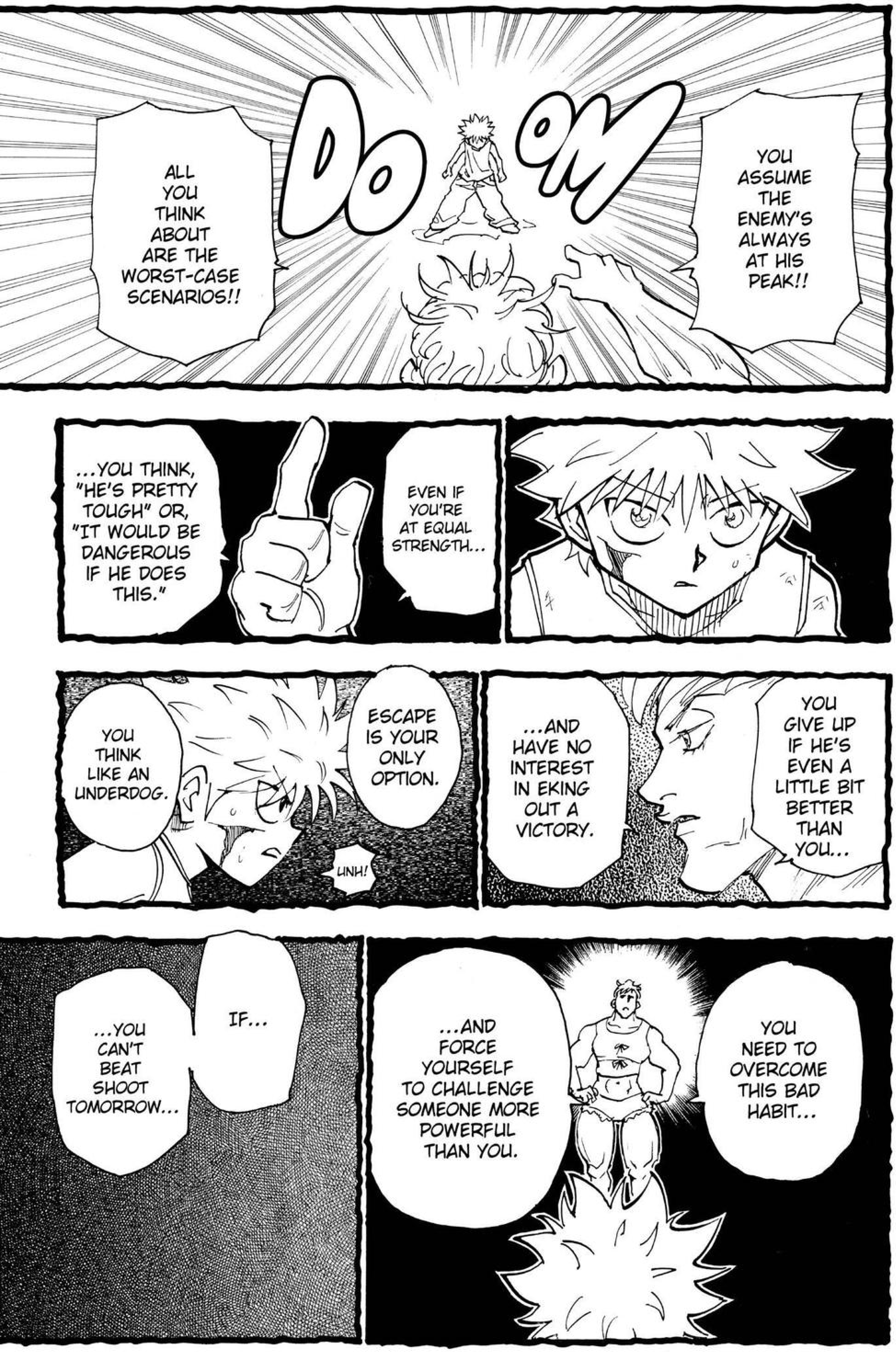
Chapter 210: Weakness: Part 3

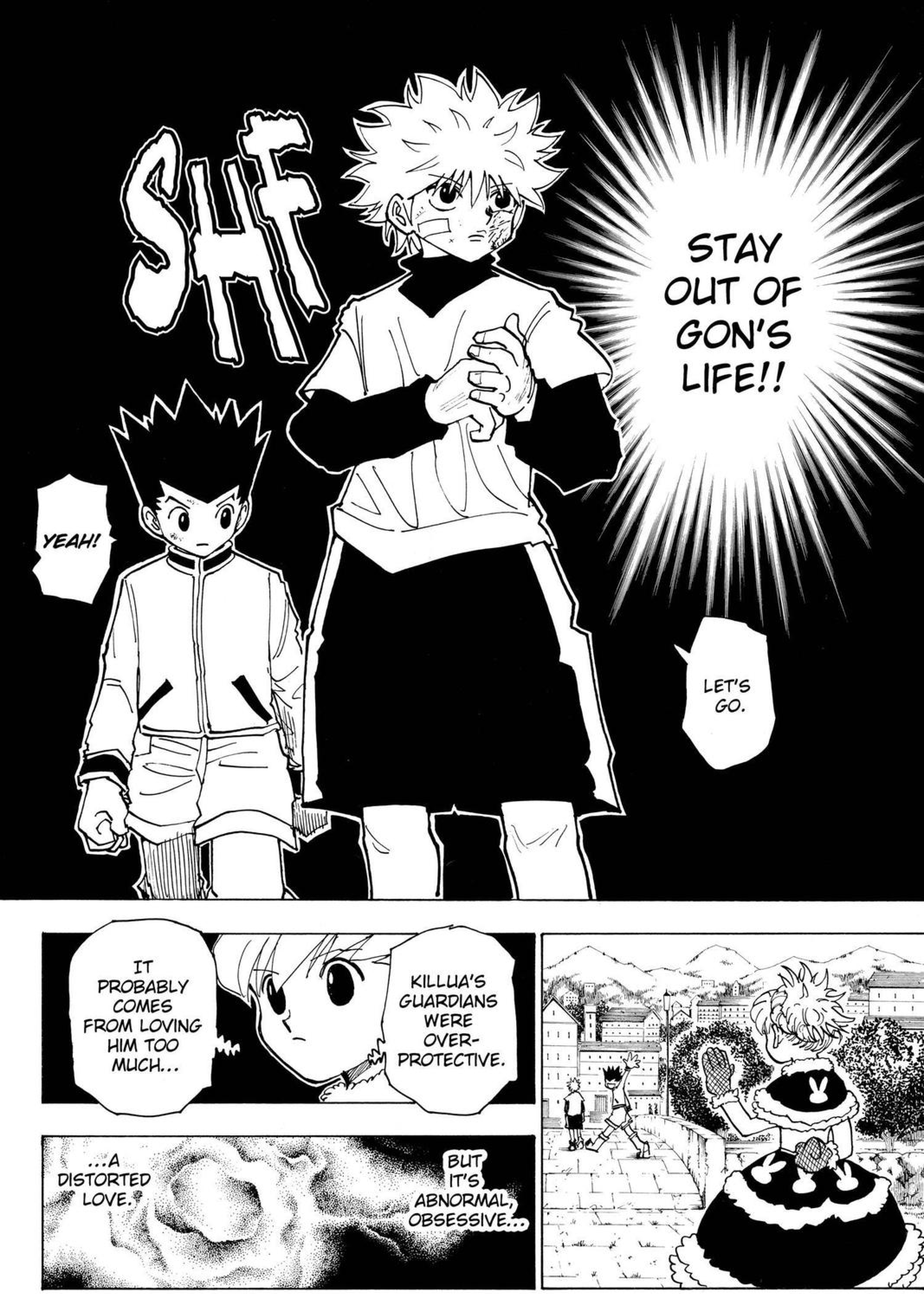

KILLUA!! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FACE?!
BWO nng!!
HM? JUST TRAINING WITH BISCUIT.
I'M GONNA FIGHT TOMORROW, TOO.
TRAINING? NOT TORTURE...?
WHAT ABOUT YOU? ARE YOU O.K.?
ALL BETTER!
I EXPECTED TO BE TOTALLY SPENT SINCE I USED UP ALL MY AURA.
ALL THANKS TO THE GORIL--I MEAN, THE OLD BAG'S MASSAGE.
THAT WAS CLOSE.
B-BMP B-BMP B-BMP
?
IF YOU TELL, I'LL MAKE SURE YOUR FACE BECOMES *THREE* TIMES THAT SIZE.
HO HO HO HO
SHE MEANT IT, TOO.


DO YOU SEE YOUR WEAKNESS NOW?
HF
HF
YOU...
...GIVE UP TOO QUICKLY!!
YOU'RE TOO CAUTIOUS IN COMBAT!
YOU COULD EVEN SAY YOU UNDERRATE YOURSELF.
THINK ABOUT IT.
WHEN YOU FACE AN OPPONENT YOU PERCEIVE IS STRONGER...

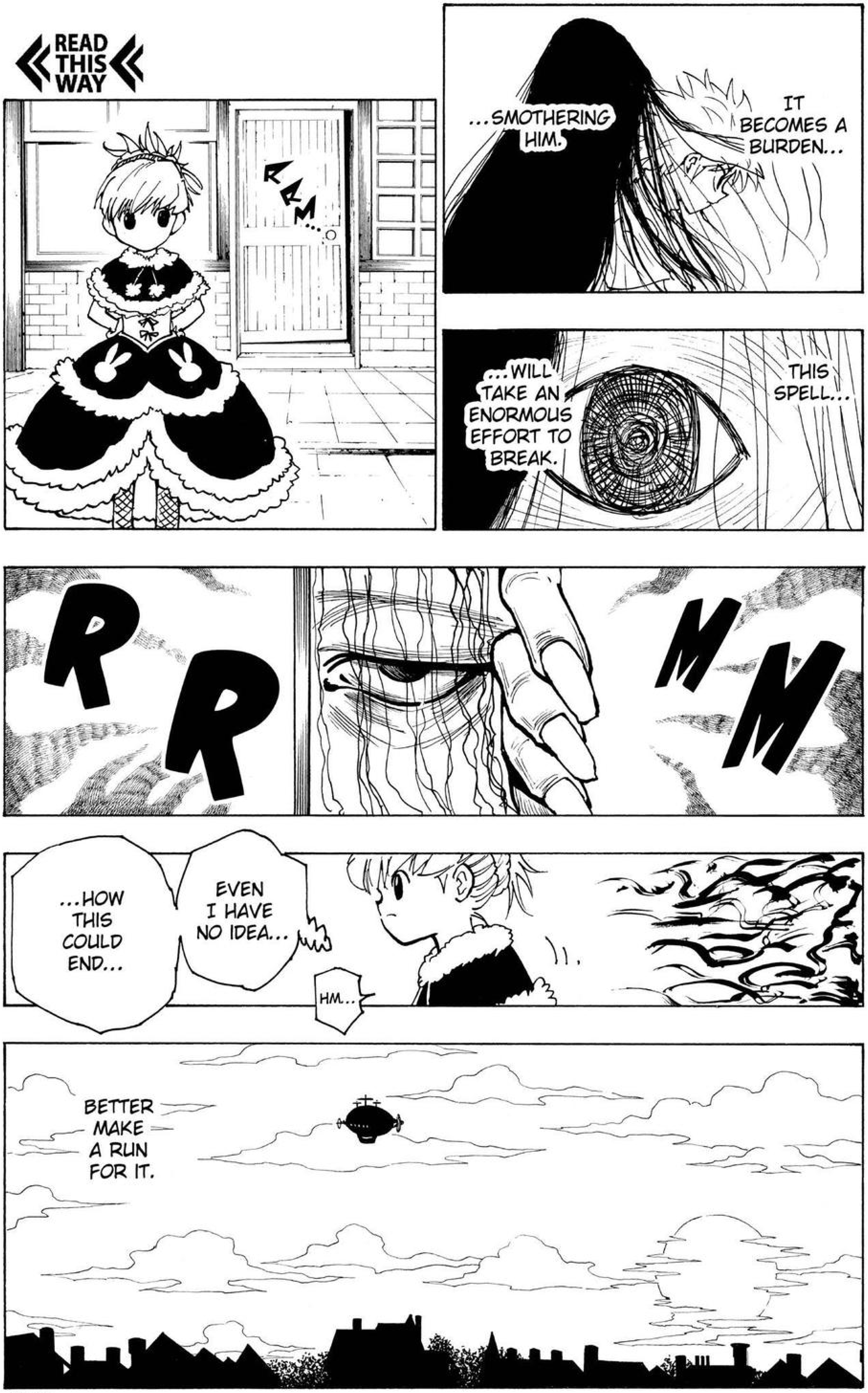

YOU IMMEDIATELY GET READY TO BAIL!!
I SHOULD CLARIFY THAT IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.
THE BLAME LIES IN THE PERSON WHO TAUGHT YOU HOW TO FIGHT.
A HABIT SO DEEPLY INGRAINED WILL BE VERY HARD TO BREAK.
BUT ONE THING IS CERTAIN...

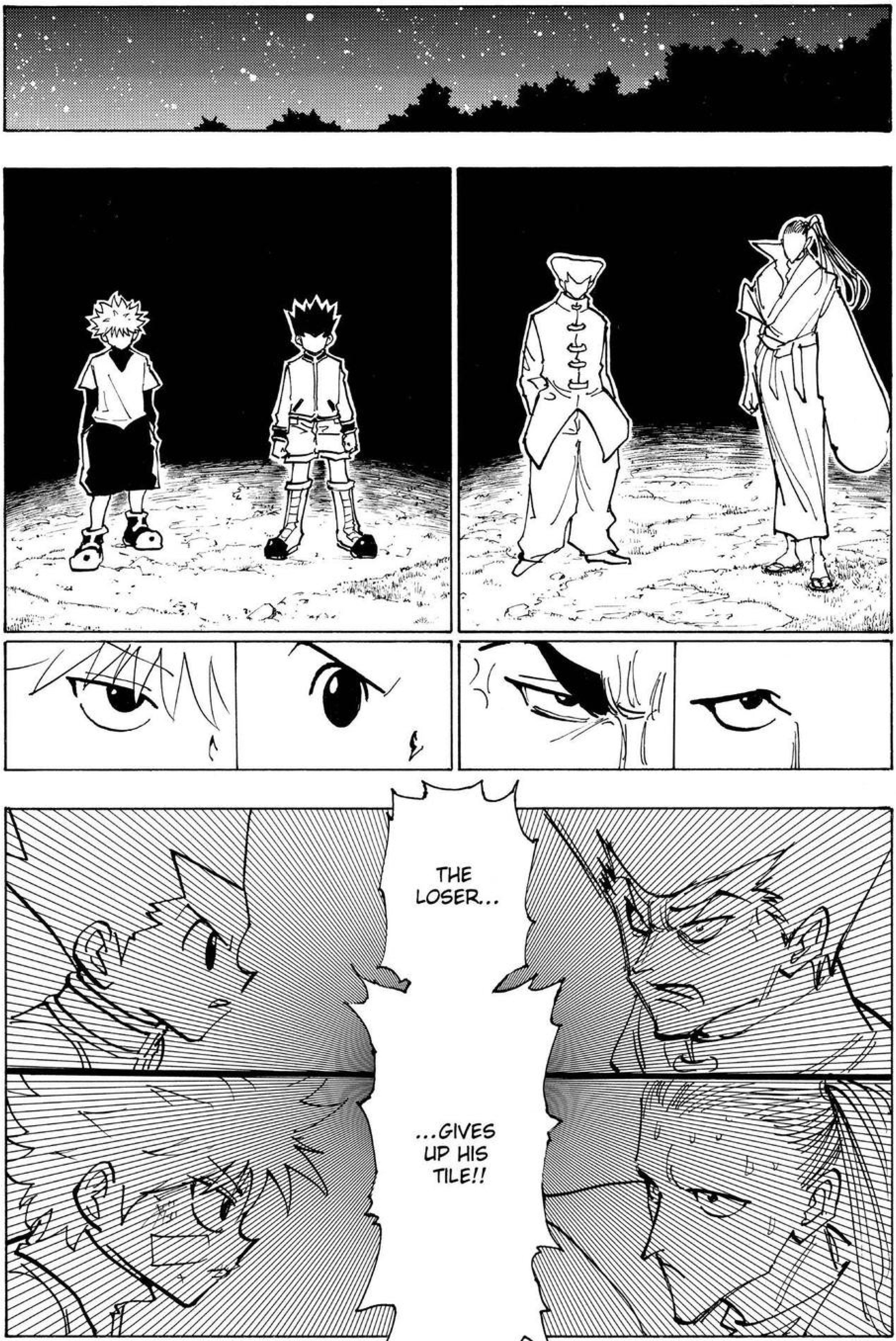

ONE DAY YOU'LL LET GON DOWN AND LEAVE HIM TO DIE...!
...
SKTCH SKTCH
INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL FACTORS AFFECT PERFORMANCE.
DMM
MAX
MIN
D
A
C
B
E
FOR EXAMPLE, ON HIS BEST DAY, C CAN BEAT D ON D'S **WORST** DAY.
A, B, AND C **ALL** HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO BEAT D, UNDER THE RIGHT CIRCUMSTANCES.
ON THE OTHER HAND...
VIP!
WHAT DO **YOU** DO?!

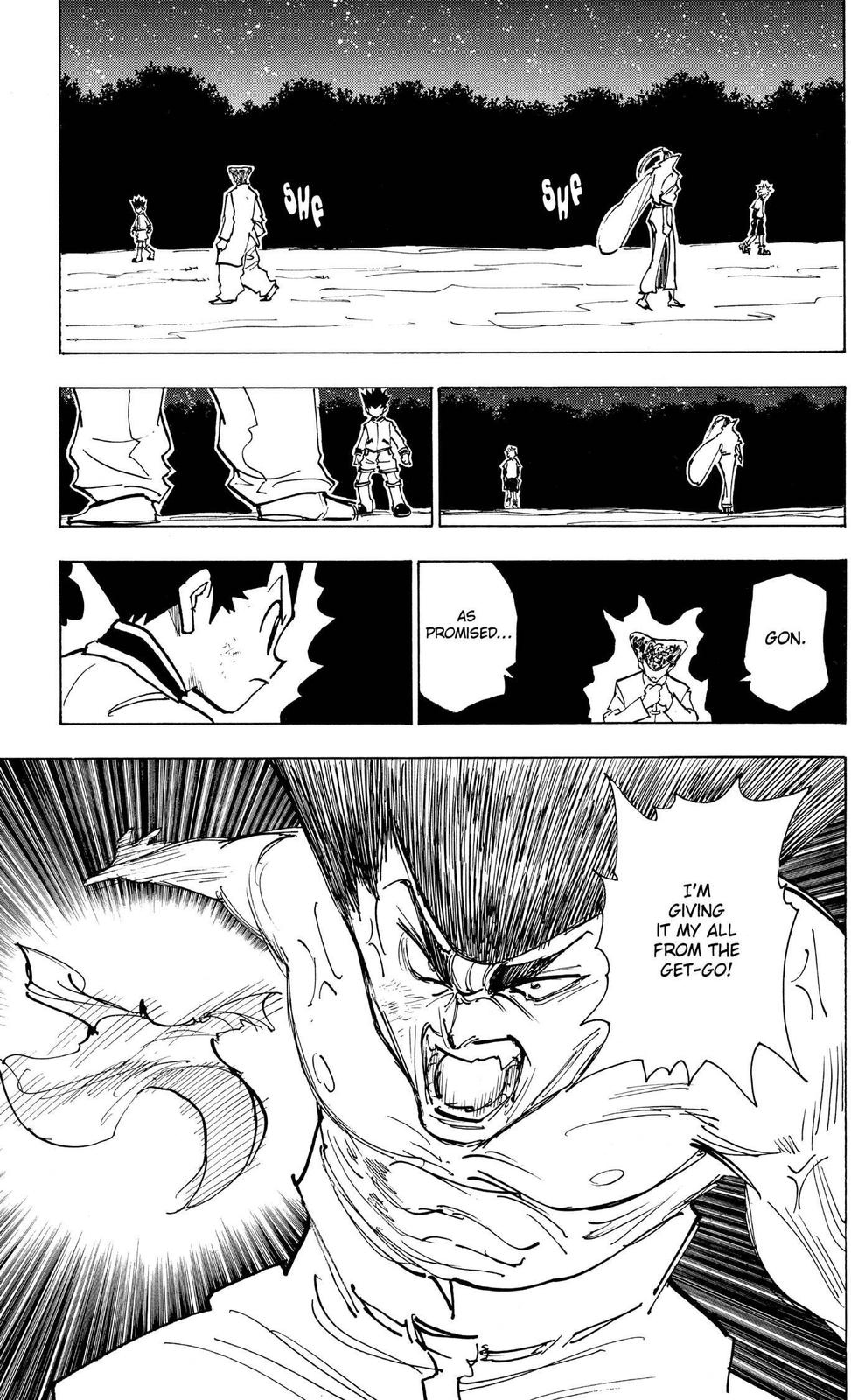

DOOM
YOU ASSUME THE ENEMY'S ALWAYS AT HIS PEAK!!
ALL YOU THINK ABOUT ARE THE WORST-CASE SCENARIOS!!
EVEN IF YOU'RE AT EQUAL STRENGTH...
...YOU THINK, "HE'S PRETTY TOUGH" OR, "IT WOULD BE DANGEROUS IF HE DOES THIS."
YOU GIVE UP IF HE'S EVEN A LITTLE BIT BETTER THAN YOU...
...AND HAVE NO INTEREST IN EKING OUT A VICTORY.
ESCAPE IS YOUR ONLY OPTION.
YOU THINK LIKE AN UNDERDOG.
UNH!
YOU NEED TO OVERCOME THIS BAD HABIT...
...AND FORCE YOURSELF TO CHALLENGE SOMEONE MORE POWERFUL THAN YOU.
IF...
...YOU CAN'T BEAT SHOOT TOMORROW...

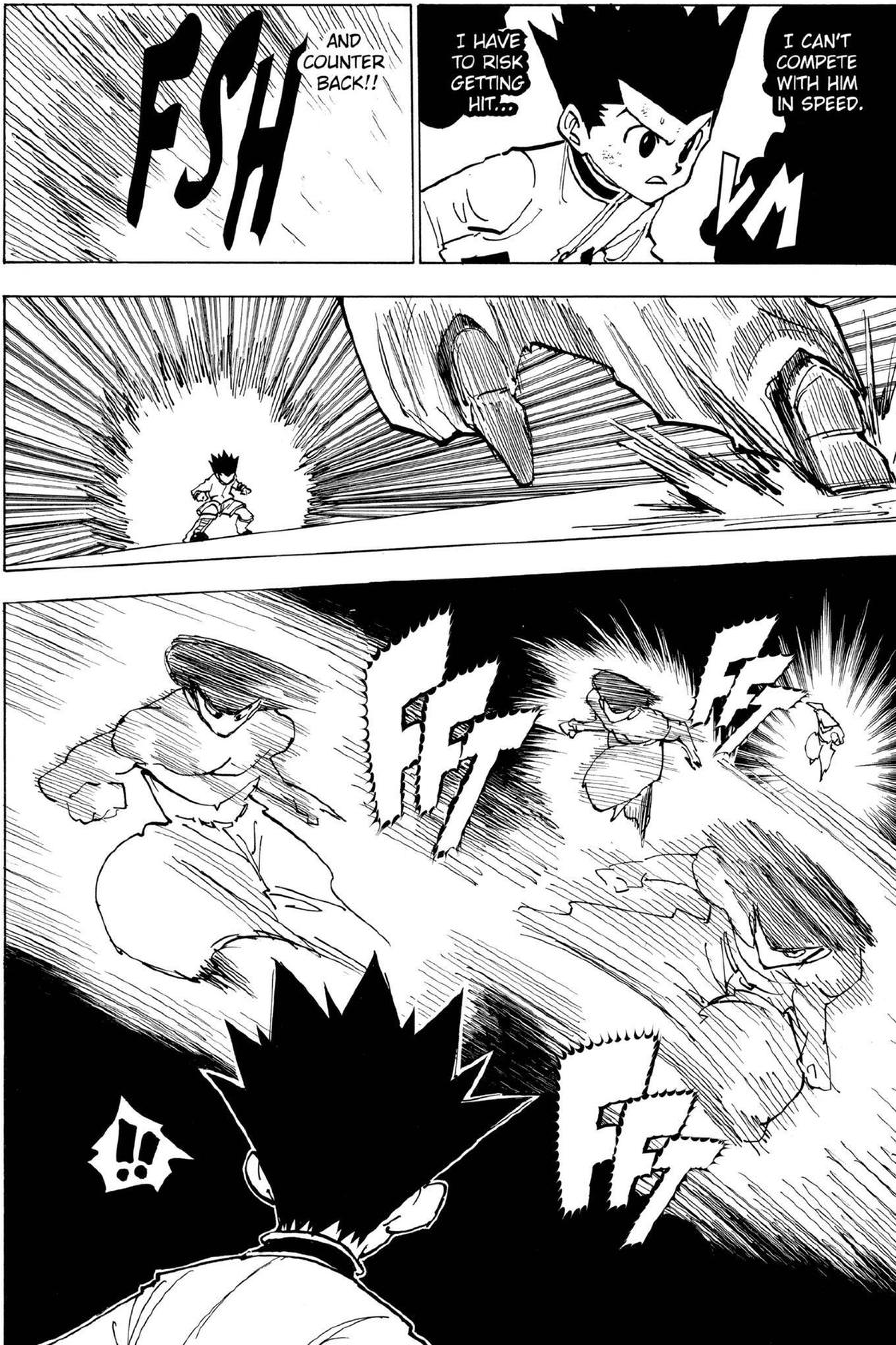

STAY OUT OF GON'S LIFE!!
SHF
LET'S GO.
YEAH!
KILLUA'S GUARDIANS WERE OVER-PROTECTIVE.
IT PROBABLY COMES FROM LOVING HIM TOO MUCH...
BUT IT'S ABNORMAL, OBSESSIVE...
...A DISTORTED LOVE.

READ THIS WAY

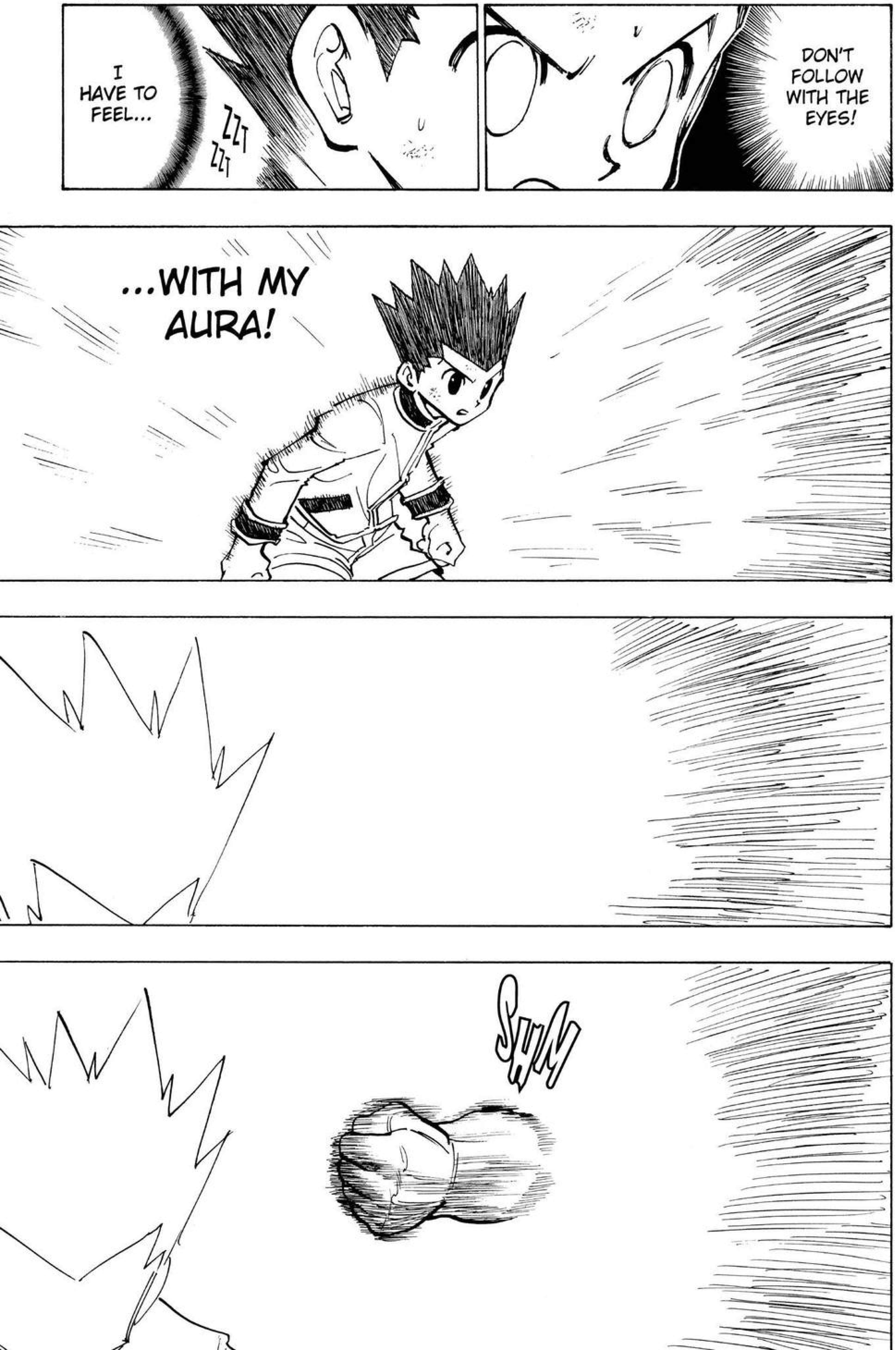

IT BECOMES A BURDEN...
...SMOTHERING HIM.
THIS SPELL...
...WILL TAKE AN ENORMOUS EFFORT TO BREAK.
RRM...
RRMM
EVEN I HAVE NO IDEA...
...HOW THIS COULD END...
HM...
BETTER MAKE A RUN FOR IT.

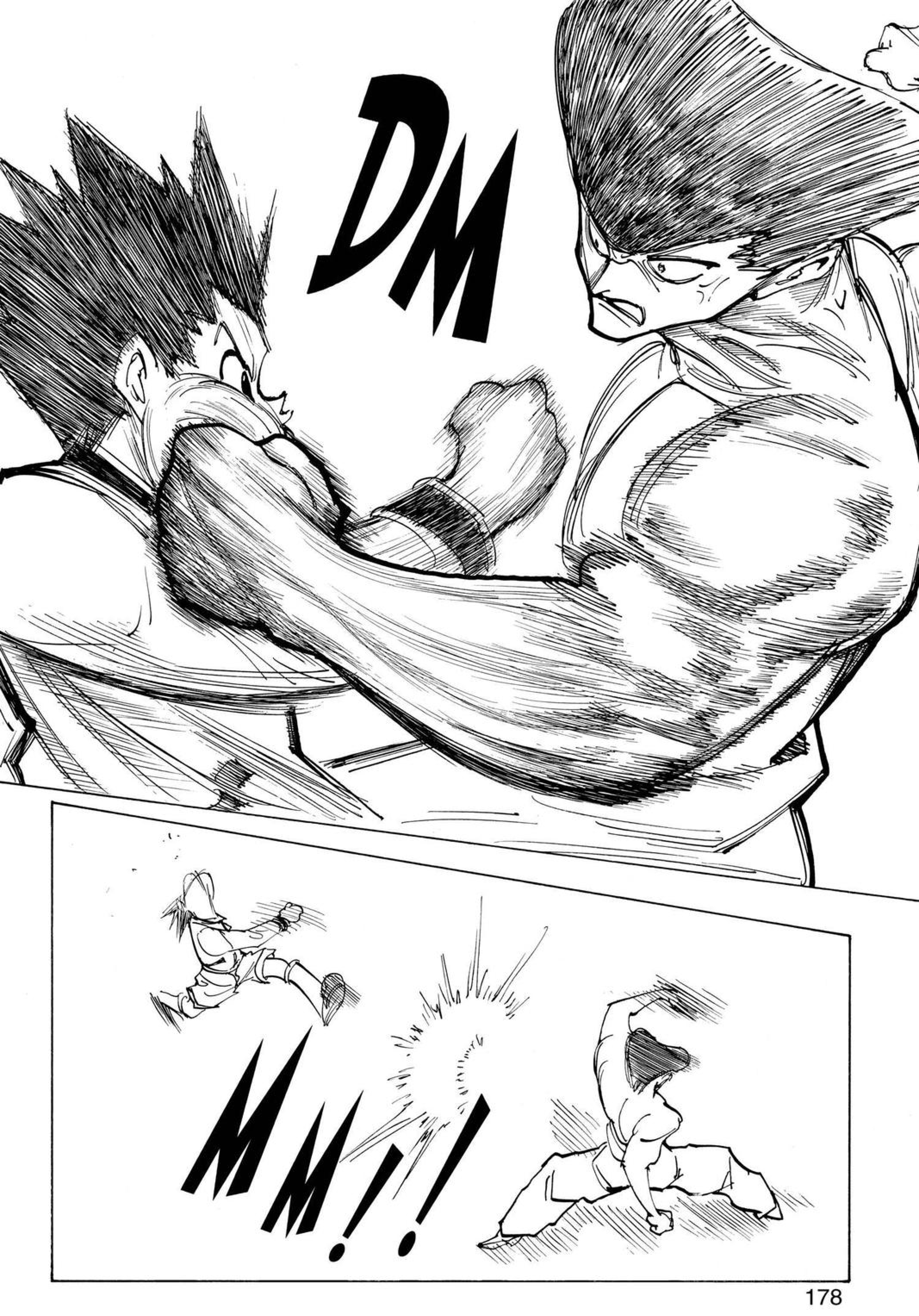

THE LOSER...
...GIVES UP HIS TILE!!

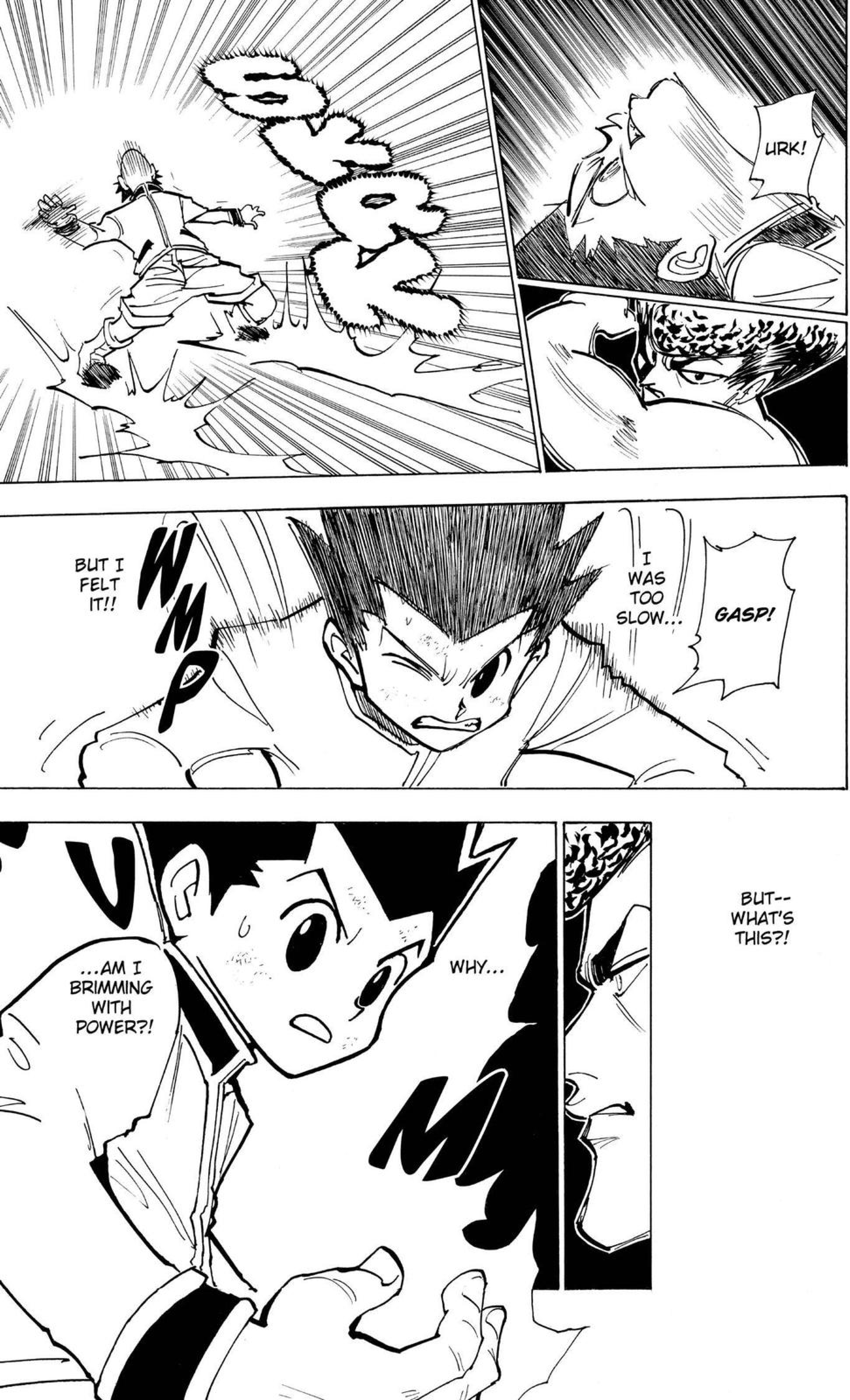

SHF
SHF
AS PROMISED...
GON.
I'M GIVING IT MY ALL FROM THE GET-GO!

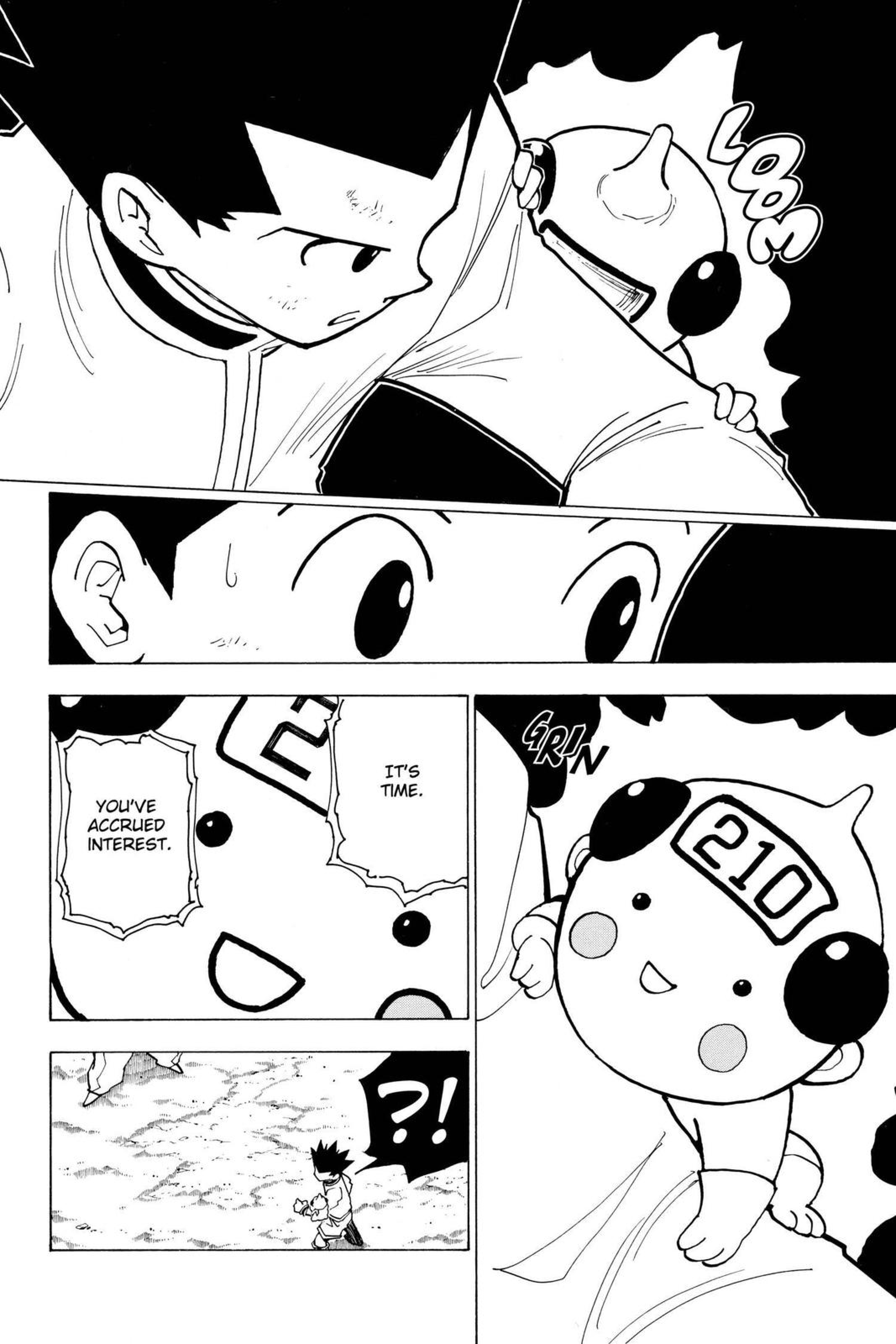

I CAN'T COMPETE WITH HIM IN SPEED.
VM
I HAVE TO RISK GETTING HIT...
AND COUNTER BACK!!
FSH
FFT
FFT
FFT
!!

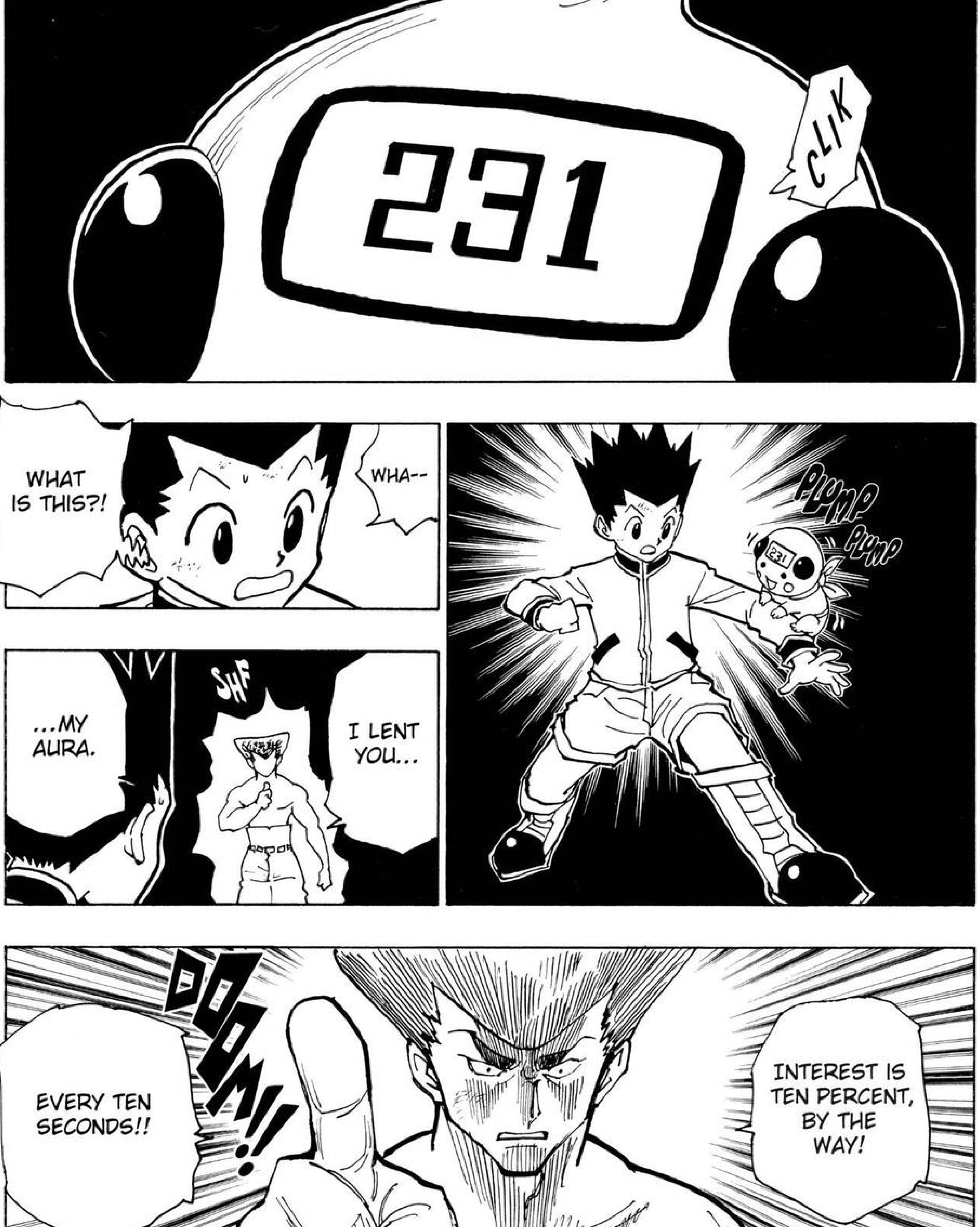
READ THIS WAY


DON'T FOLLOW WITH THE EYES!
I HAVE TO FEEL...
ZZT ZZT
...WITH MY AURA!
SHUN

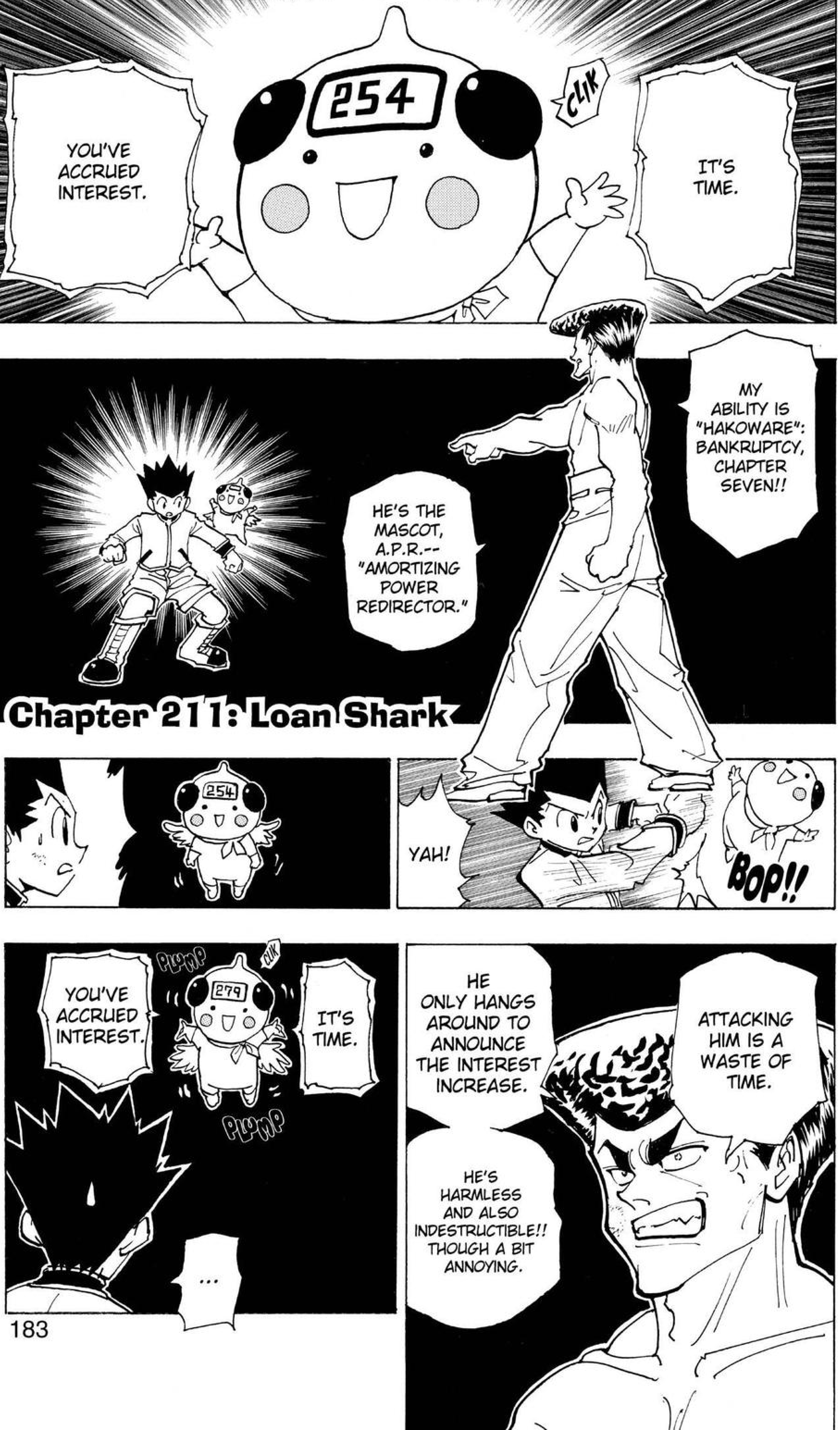

DM
MM!!

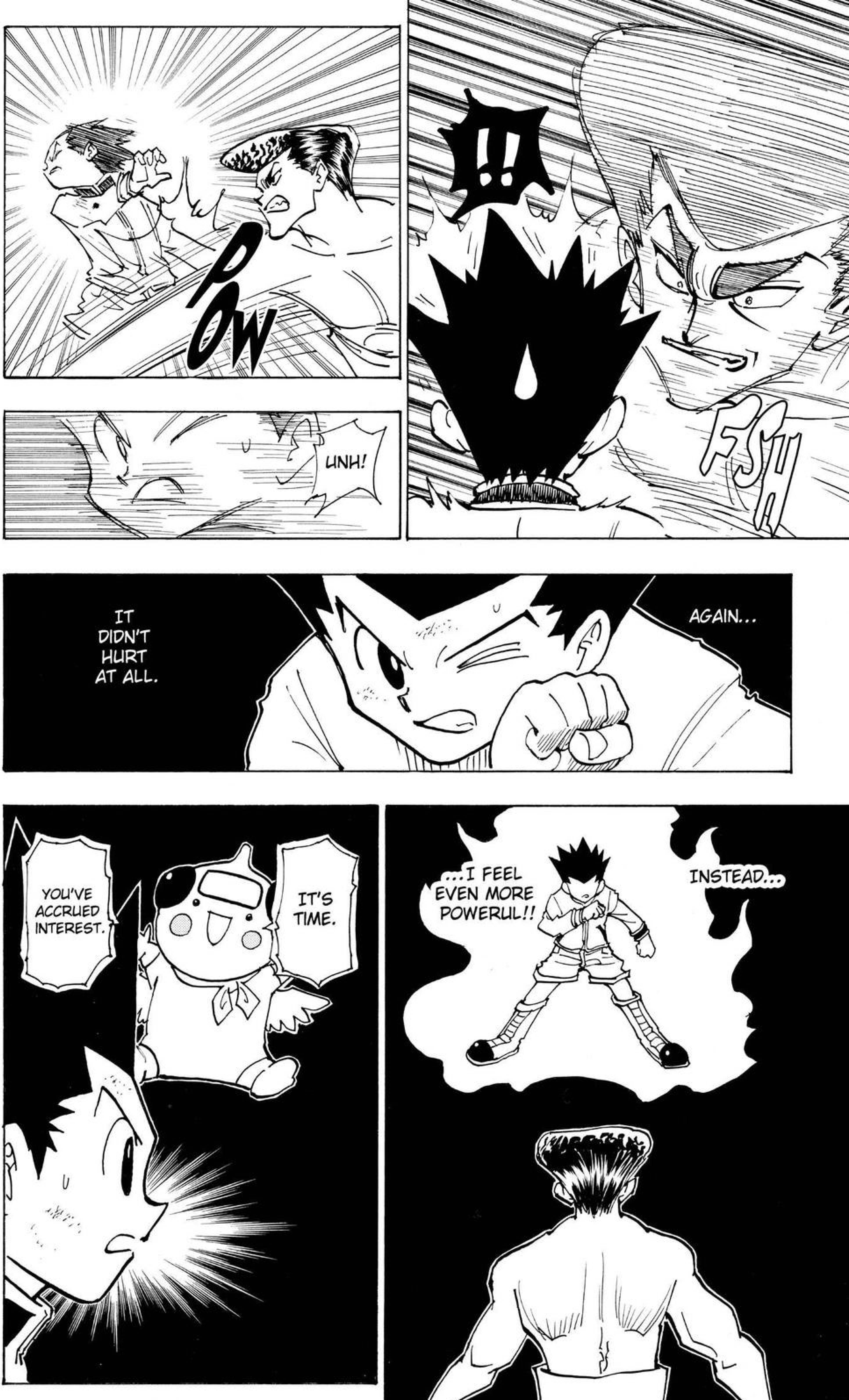

URK!
GASP!
I WAS TOO SLOW...
WMP
BUT I FELT IT!!
BUT-- WHAT'S THIS?!
WHY...
...AM I BRIMMING WITH POWER?!

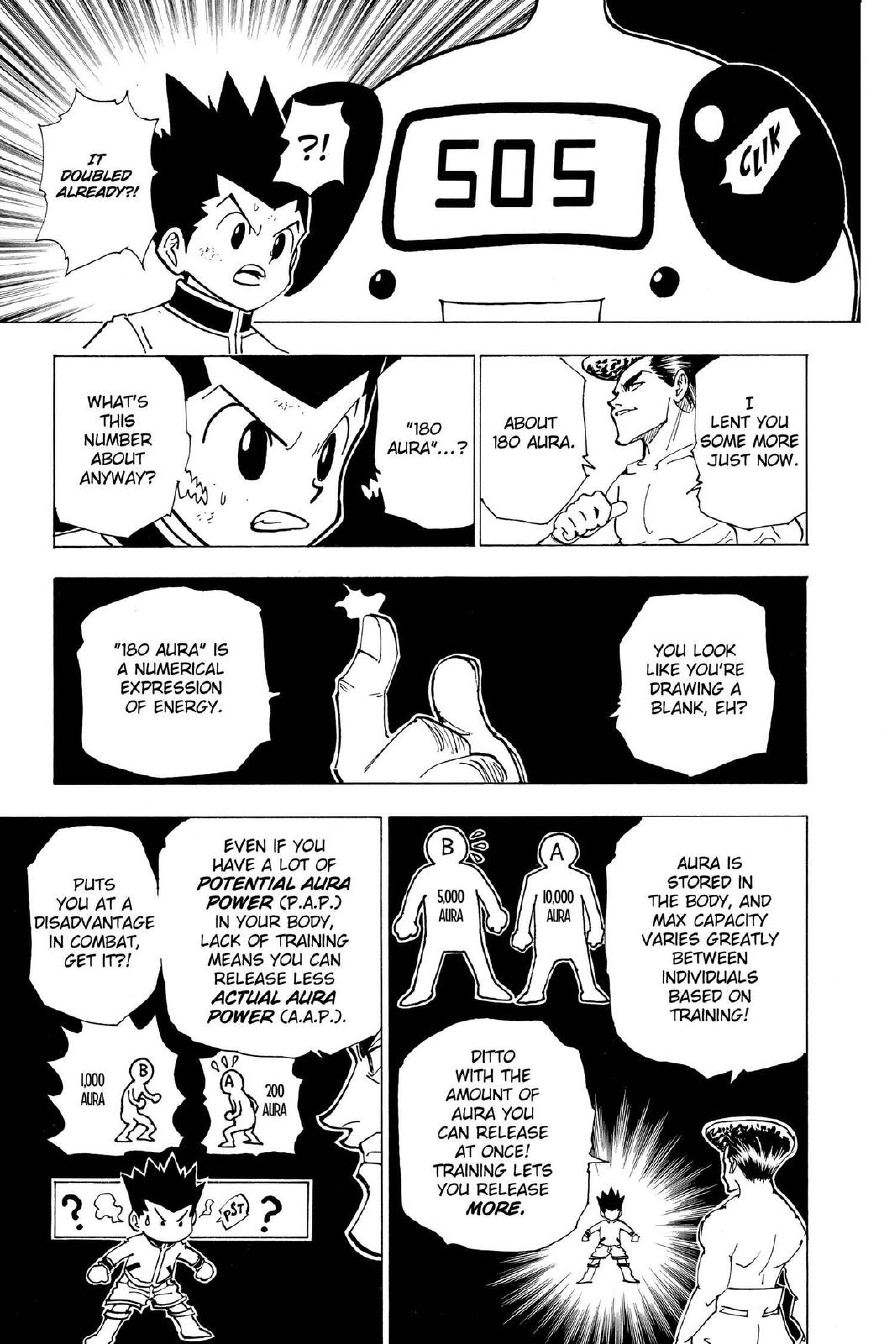

LOOM
GRIN
210
IT'S TIME.
YOU'VE ACCRUED INTEREST.
?!

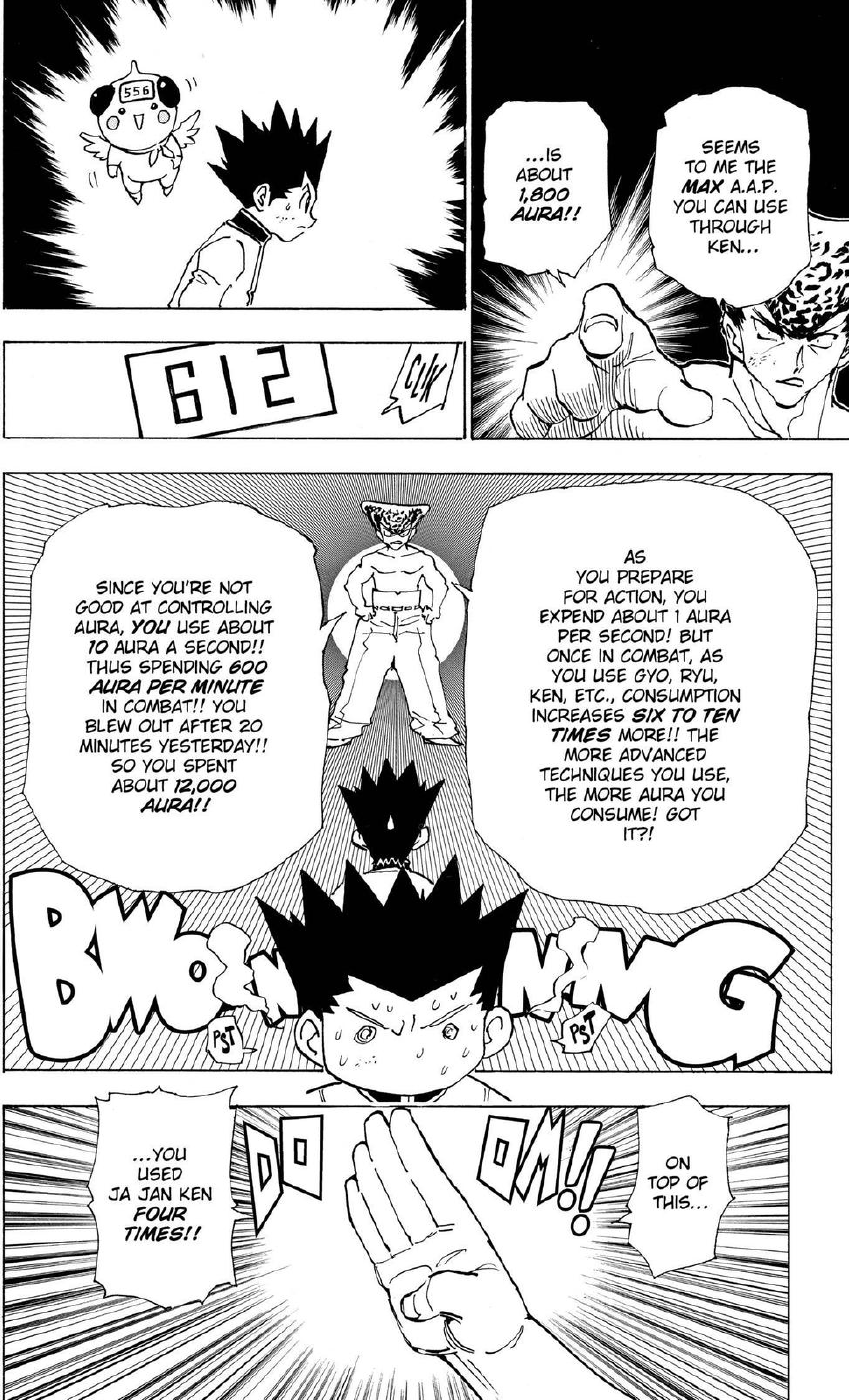

231
CLIK
PLUMP
PLUMP
231
WHA--
WHAT IS THIS?!
I LENT YOU...
SHF
...MY AURA.
INTEREST IS TEN PERCENT, BY THE WAY!
DOOM!!
EVERY TEN SECONDS!!
YOU BETTER PAY ME BACK FAST...
...OR YOU'LL GO BANKRUPT!

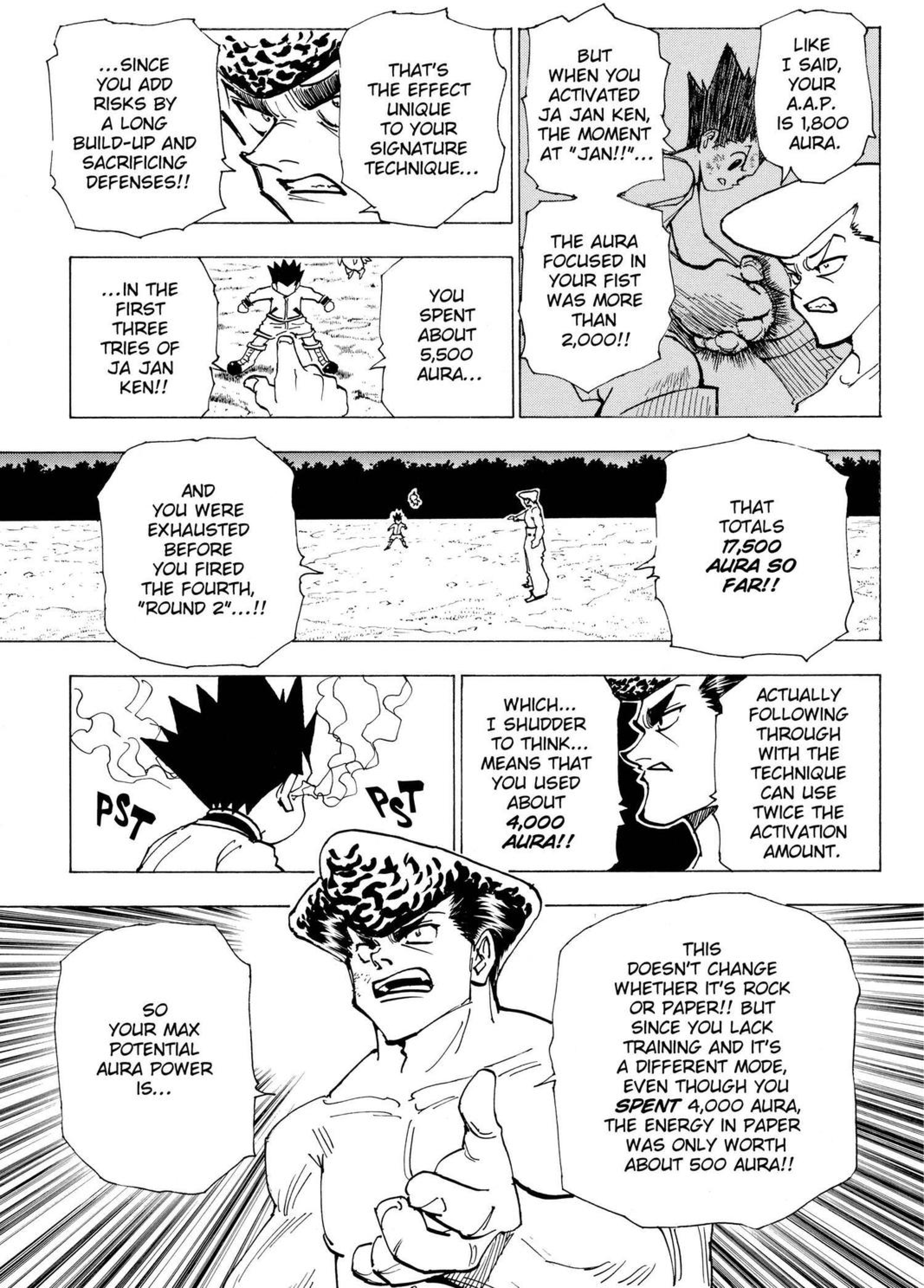
Chapter 211: Loan Shark

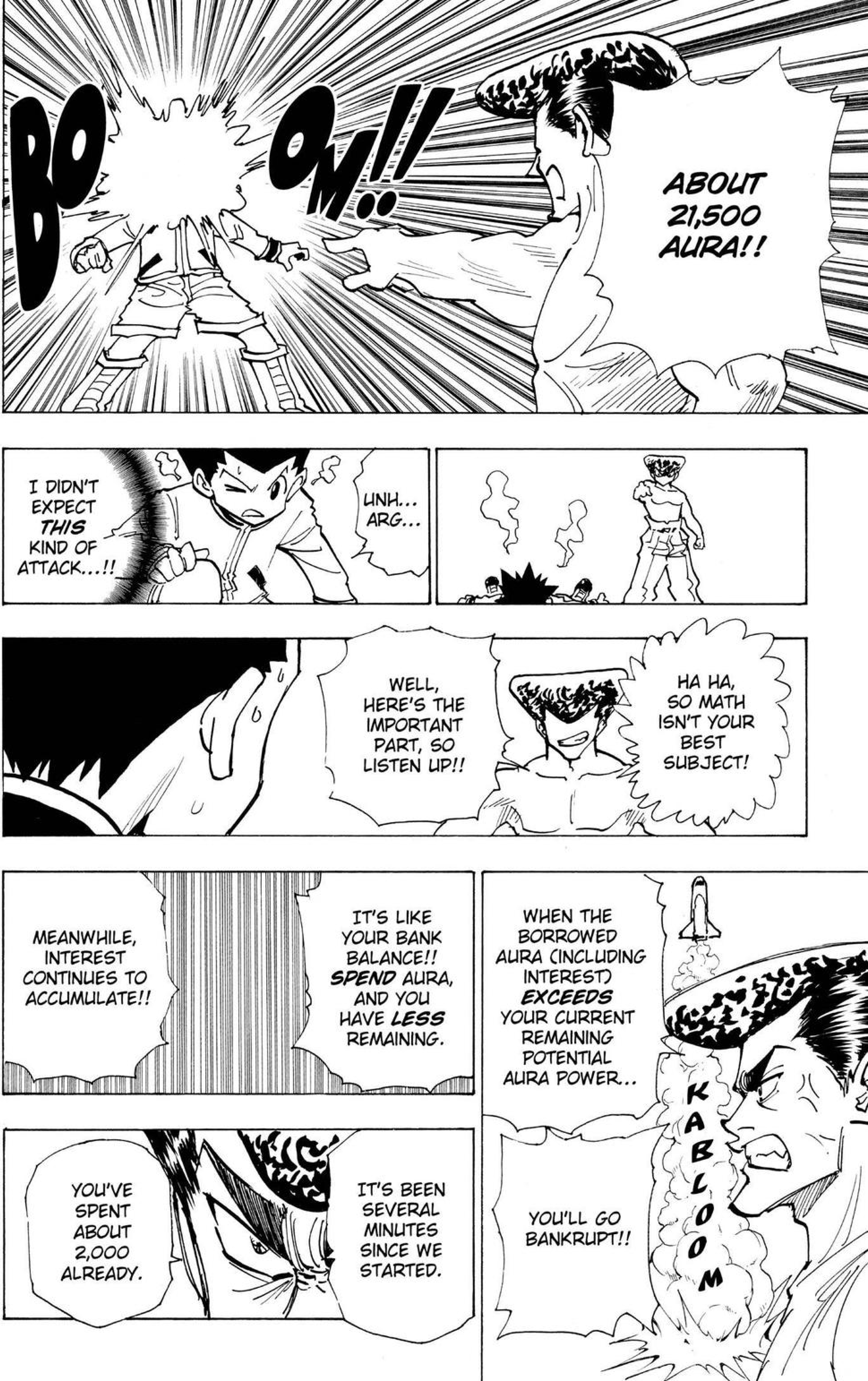

254
CLIK
YOU'VE ACCRUED INTEREST.
IT'S TIME.
MY ABILITY IS "HAKOWARE": BANKRUPTCY, CHAPTER SEVEN!!
HE'S THE MASCOT, A.P.R.-- "AMORTIZING POWER REDIRECTOR."
BOP!!
YAH!
254
ATTACKING HIM IS A WASTE OF TIME.
HE ONLY HANGS AROUND TO ANNOUNCE THE INTEREST INCREASE.
HE'S HARMLESS AND ALSO INDESTRUCTIBLE!! THOUGH A BIT ANNOYING.
CLIK
PLUMP
279
YOU'VE ACCRUED INTEREST.
IT'S TIME.
PLUMP
...

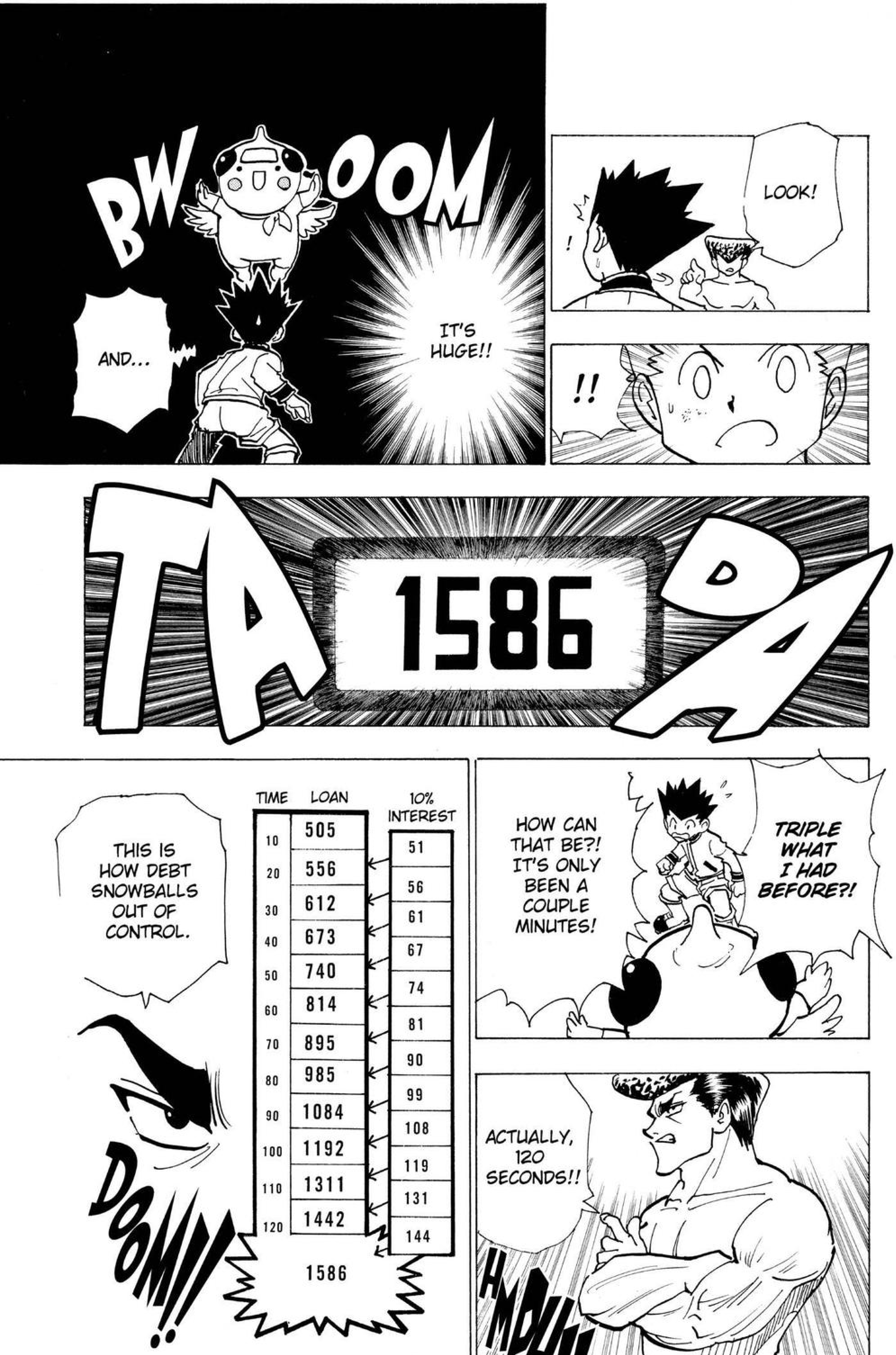

!!
FSH
POW
UNH!
AGAIN...
IT DIDN'T HURT AT ALL.
INSTEAD...
...I FEEL EVEN MORE POWERUL!!
IT'S TIME.
YOU'VE ACCRUED INTEREST.


CLIK
505
?!
IT DOUBLED ALREADY?!
I LENT YOU SOME MORE JUST NOW.
ABOUT 180 AURA.
"180 AURA"...?
WHAT'S THIS NUMBER ABOUT ANYWAY?
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE DRAWING A BLANK, EH?
"180 AURA" IS A NUMERICAL EXPRESSION OF ENERGY.
AURA IS STORED IN THE BODY, AND MAX CAPACITY VARIES GREATLY BETWEEN INDIVIDUALS BASED ON TRAINING!
A
10,000 AURA
B
5,000 AURA
DITTO WITH THE AMOUNT OF AURA YOU CAN RELEASE AT ONCE! TRAINING LETS YOU RELEASE MORE.
EVEN IF YOU HAVE A LOT OF POTENTIAL AURA POWER (P.A.P.) IN YOUR BODY, LACK OF TRAINING MEANS YOU CAN RELEASE LESS ACTUAL AURA POWER (A.A.P.).
PUTS YOU AT A DISADVANTAGE IN COMBAT, GET IT?!
A
200 AURA
B
1,000 AURA
?
PST
?

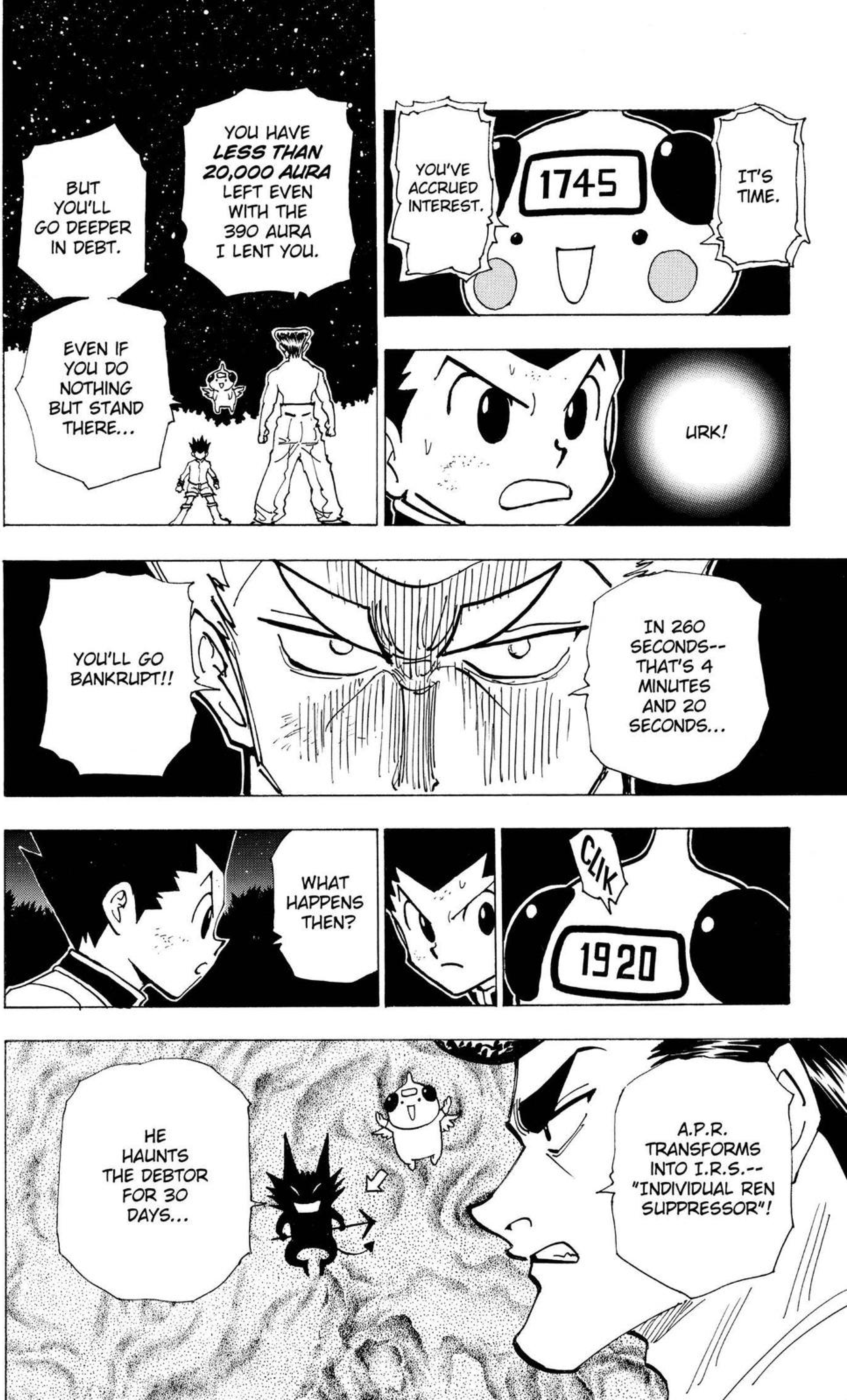

SEEMS TO ME THE **MAX** A.A.P. YOU CAN USE THROUGH KEN...
...IS ABOUT **1,800 AURA!!**
556
612
CLIK
AS YOU PREPARE FOR ACTION, YOU EXPEND ABOUT 1 AURA PER SECOND! BUT ONCE IN COMBAT, AS YOU USE GYO, RYU, KEN, ETC., CONSUMPTION INCREASES ***SIX TO TEN TIMES*** MORE!! THE MORE ADVANCED TECHNIQUES YOU USE, THE MORE AURA YOU CONSUME! GOT IT?!
SINCE YOU'RE NOT GOOD AT CONTROLLING AURA, ***YOU*** USE ABOUT ***10*** AURA A SECOND!! THUS SPENDING ***600 AURA PER MINUTE*** IN COMBAT!! YOU BLEW OUT AFTER 20 MINUTES YESTERDAY!! SO YOU SPENT ABOUT ***12,000 AURA!!***
BWOOMMNG
PST
PST
ON TOP OF THIS...
...YOU USED JA JAN KEN ***FOUR TIMES!!***
DOOM!!

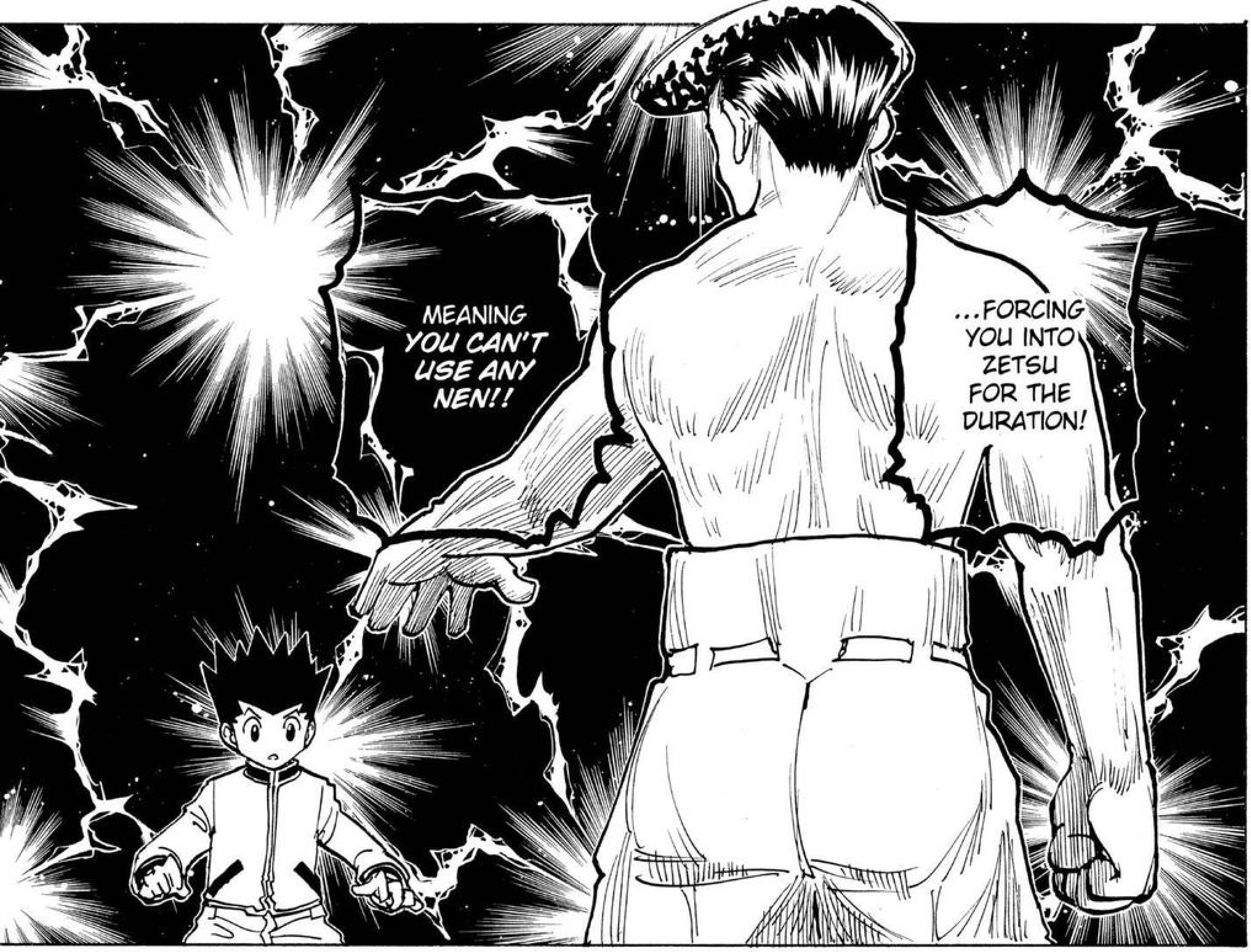

LIKE I SAID, YOUR A.A.P. IS 1,800 AURA.
BUT WHEN YOU ACTIVATED JA JAN KEN, THE MOMENT AT "JAN!!"...
THE AURA FOCUSED IN YOUR FIST WAS MORE THAN 2,000!!
THAT'S THE EFFECT UNIQUE TO YOUR SIGNATURE TECHNIQUE...
...SINCE YOU ADD RISKS BY A LONG BUILD-UP AND SACRIFICING DEFENSES!!
YOU SPENT ABOUT 5,500 AURA...
...IN THE FIRST THREE TRIES OF JA JAN KEN!!
THAT TOTALS ***17,500 AURA SO FAR!!***
AND YOU WERE EXHAUSTED BEFORE YOU FIRED THE FOURTH, "ROUND 2"...!!
ACTUALLY FOLLOWING THROUGH WITH THE TECHNIQUE CAN USE TWICE THE ACTIVATION AMOUNT.
WHICH... I SHUDDER TO THINK... MEANS THAT YOU USED ABOUT ***4,000 AURA!!***
PST
PST
THIS DOESN'T CHANGE WHETHER IT'S ROCK OR PAPER!! BUT SINCE YOU LACK TRAINING AND IT'S A DIFFERENT MODE, EVEN THOUGH YOU ***SPENT*** 4,000 AURA, THE ENERGY IN PAPER WAS ONLY WORTH ABOUT 500 AURA!!
SO YOUR MAX POTENTIAL AURA POWER IS...

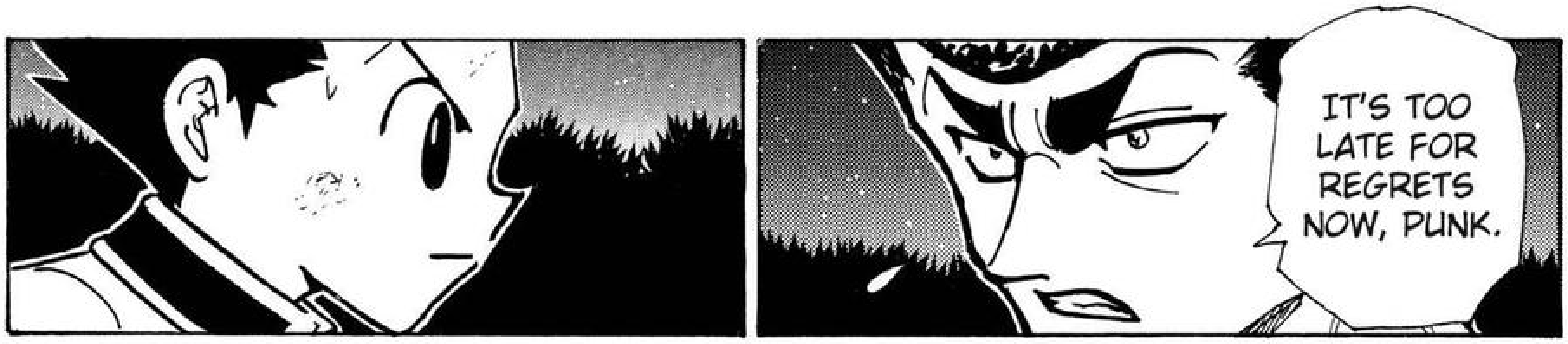

BOOM!!
ABOUT 21,500 AURA!!
UNH... ARG...
I DIDN'T EXPECT *THIS* KIND OF ATTACK...!!
HA HA, SO MATH ISN'T YOUR BEST SUBJECT!
WELL, HERE'S THE IMPORTANT PART, SO LISTEN UP!!
WHEN THE BORROWED AURA (INCLUDING INTEREST) *EXCEEDS* YOUR CURRENT REMAINING POTENTIAL AURA POWER...
KABLOOM
YOU'LL GO BANKRUPT!!
IT'S LIKE YOUR BANK BALANCE!! *SPEND* AURA, AND YOU HAVE *LESS* REMAINING.
MEANWHILE, INTEREST CONTINUES TO ACCUMULATE!!
IT'S BEEN SEVERAL MINUTES SINCE WE STARTED.
YOU'VE SPENT ABOUT 2,000 ALREADY.


BWOOOM
AND...
IT'S HUGE!!
LOOK!
!
!!
TA
1586
DA
THIS IS HOW DEBT SNOWBALLS OUT OF CONTROL.
DOOM!!
HOW CAN THAT BE?! IT'S ONLY BEEN A COUPLE MINUTES!
TRIPLE WHAT I HAD BEFORE?!
ACTUALLY, 120 SECONDS!!
HMPH!!

TIME	LOAN	10% INTEREST
	505	51
10	556	56
20	612	61
30	673	67
40	740	74
50	814	81
60	895	90
70	985	99
80	1084	108
90	1192	119
100	1311	131
110	1442	144
120	1586	

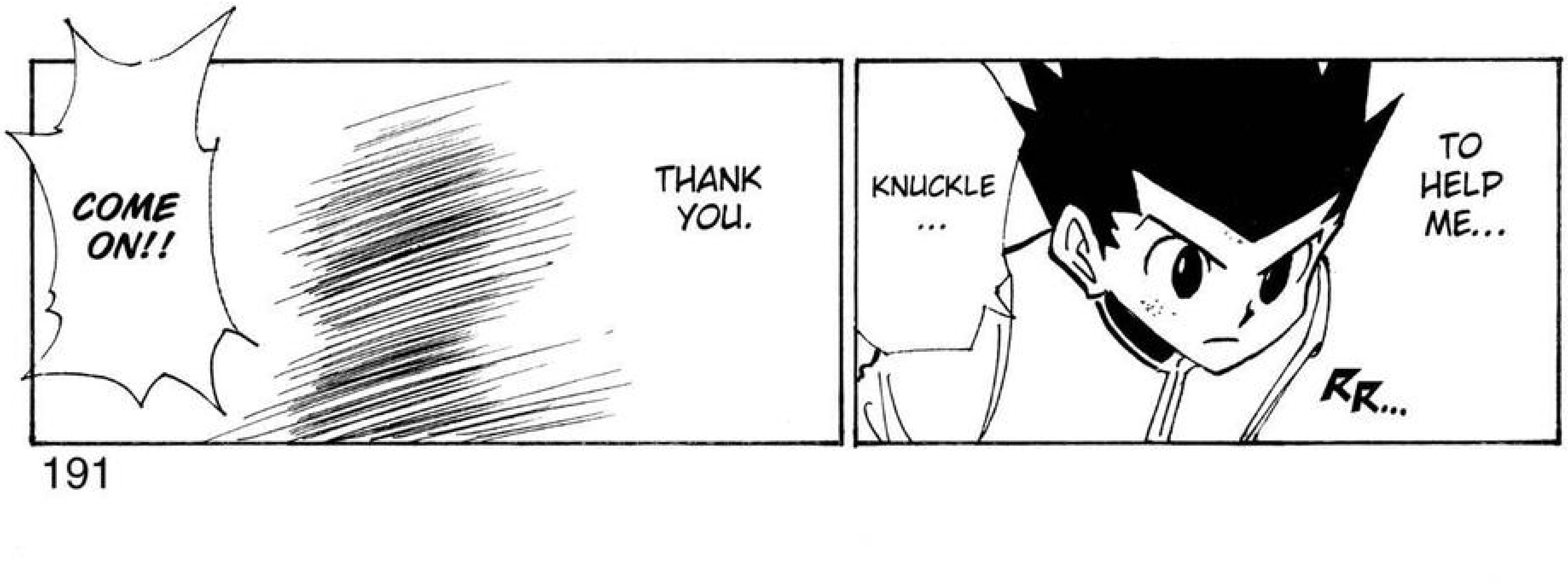

IT'S TIME.
YOU'VE ACCRUED INTEREST.
1745
URK!
YOU HAVE **LESS THAN 20,000 AURA** LEFT EVEN WITH THE 390 AURA I LENT YOU.
BUT YOU'LL GO DEEPER IN DEBT.
EVEN IF YOU DO NOTHING BUT STAND THERE...
IN 260 SECONDS--THAT'S 4 MINUTES AND 20 SECONDS...
YOU'LL GO BANKRUPT!!
CLIK
1920
WHAT HAPPENS THEN?
A.P.R. TRANSFORMS INTO I.R.S.--"INDIVIDUAL REN SUPPRESSOR"!
HE HAUNTS THE DEBTOR FOR 30 DAYS...

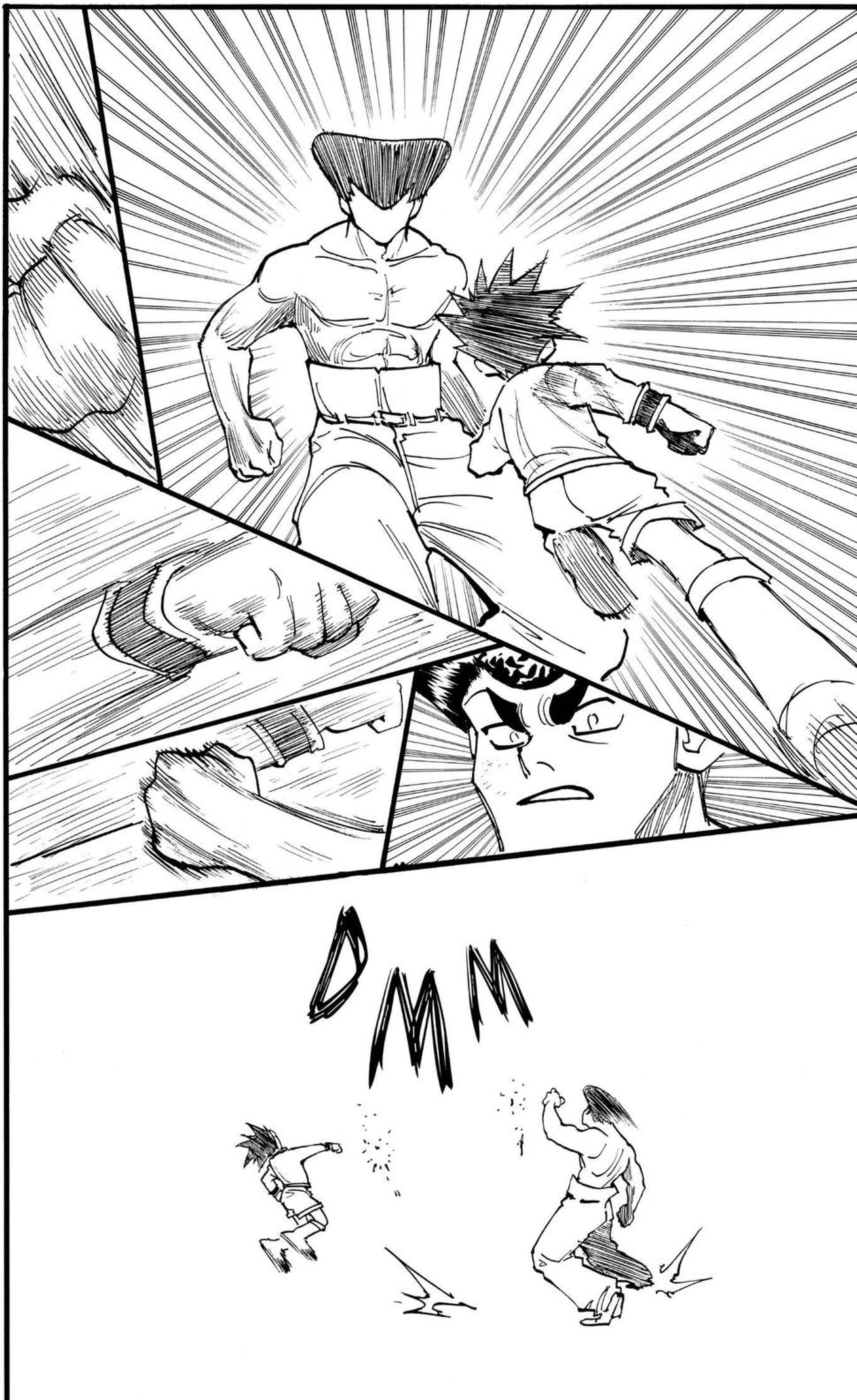

...FORCING YOU INTO ZETSU FOR THE DURATION!
MEANING *YOU CAN'T USE ANY NEN!!*


IT'S TOO LATE FOR REGRETS NOW, PUNK.

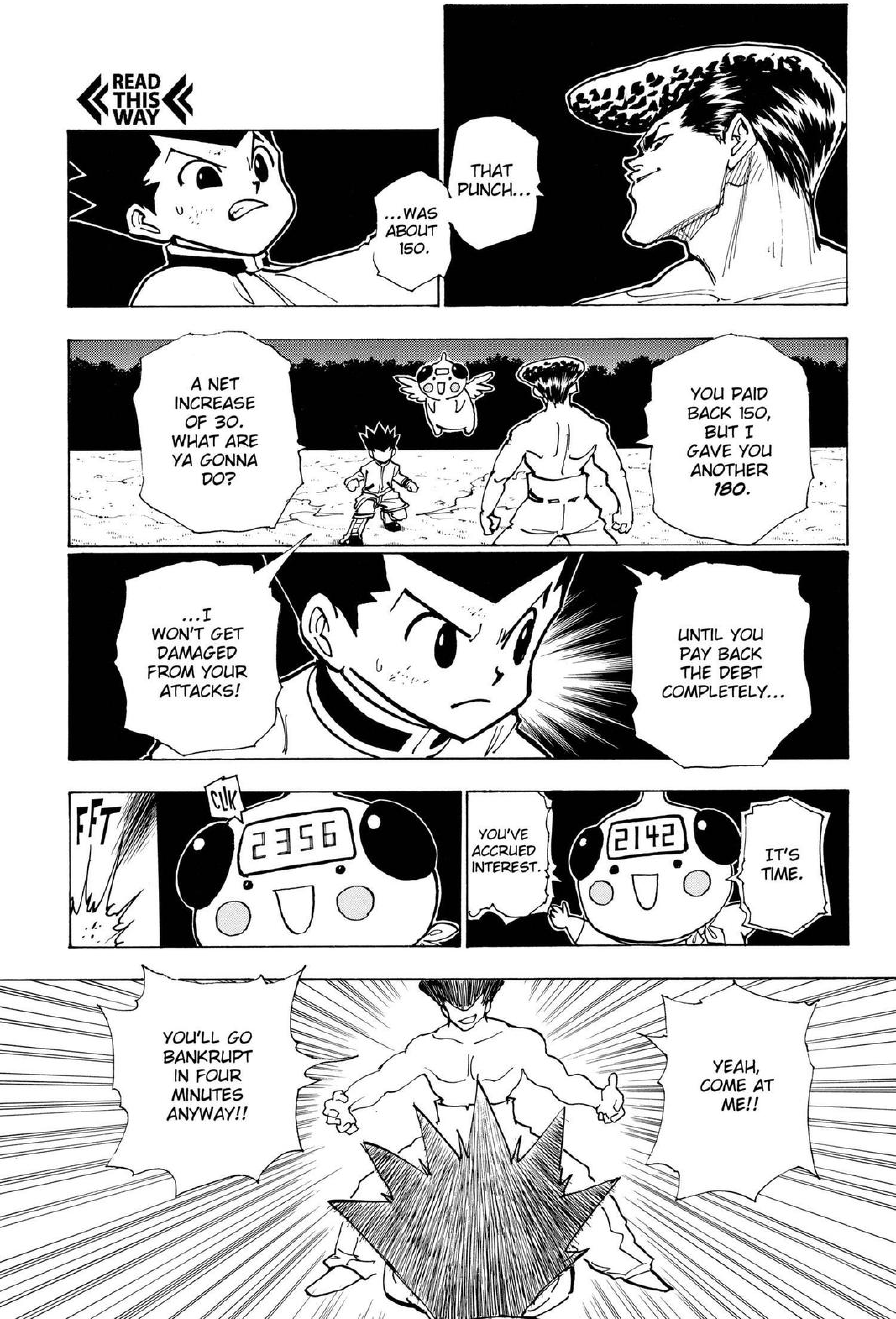
THAT'S WHY...

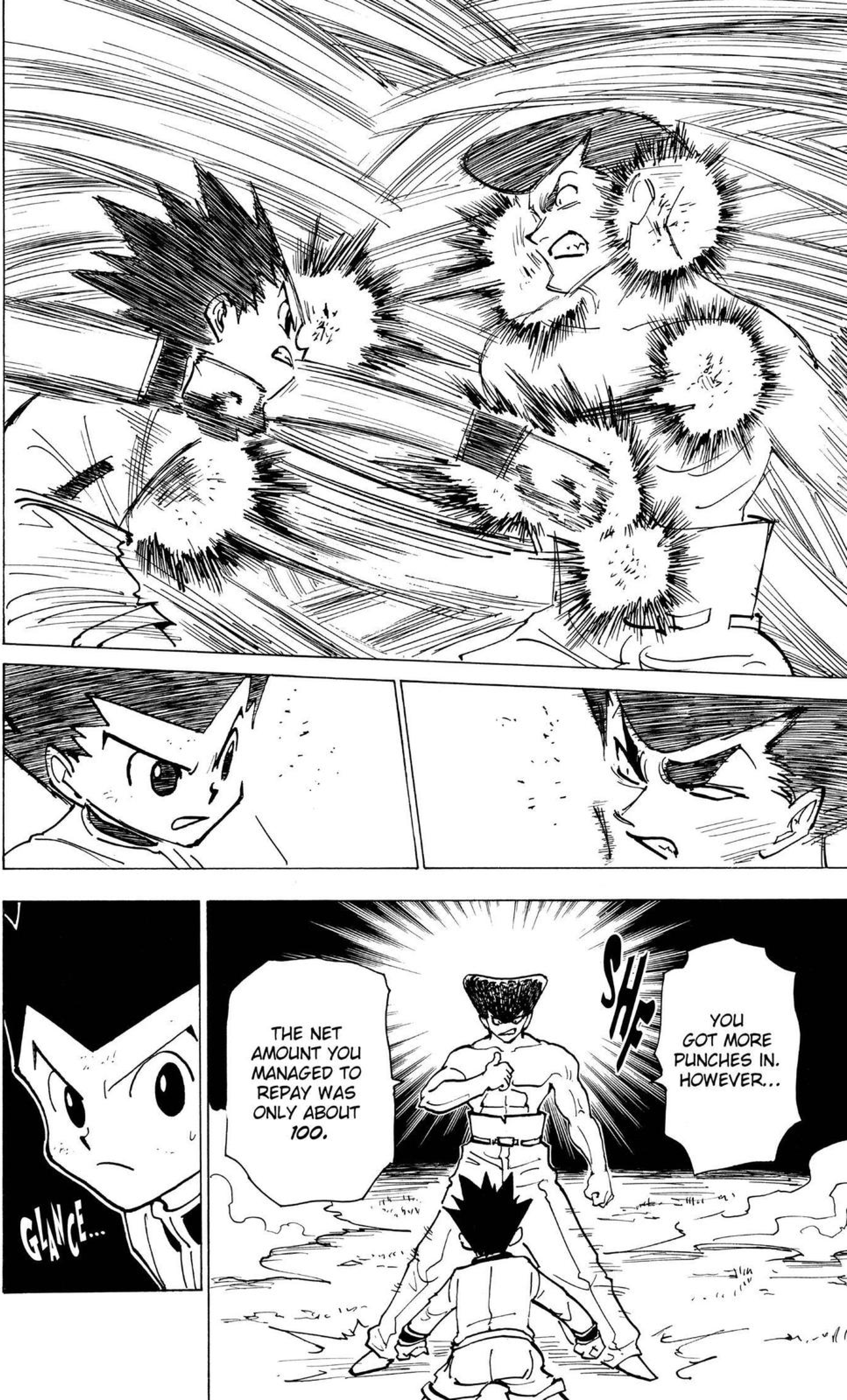
HE DIDN'T USE IT UNTIL NOW...

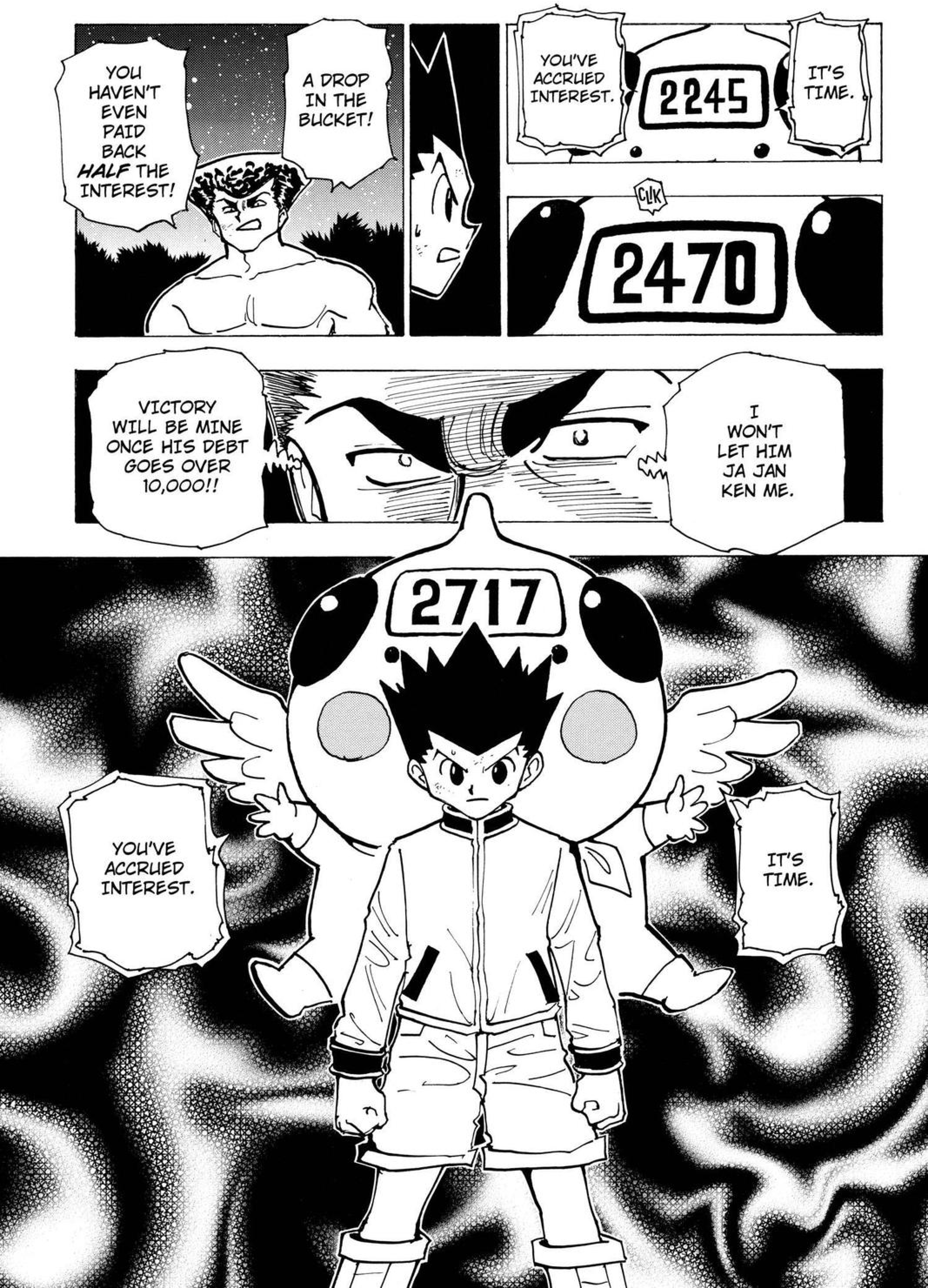

TO HELP ME...
KNUCKLE...
RR...
THANK YOU.
COME ON!!

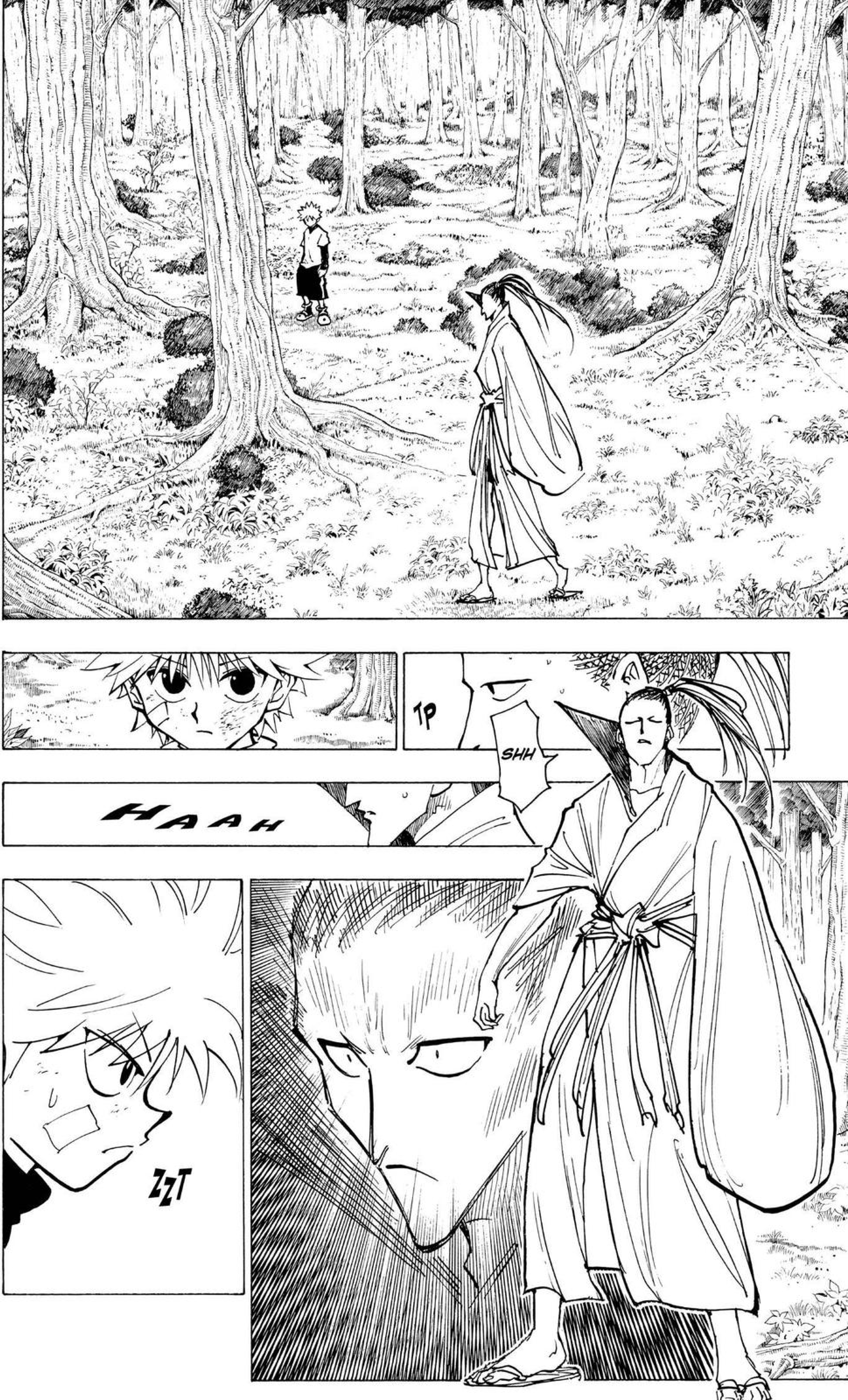

DMM

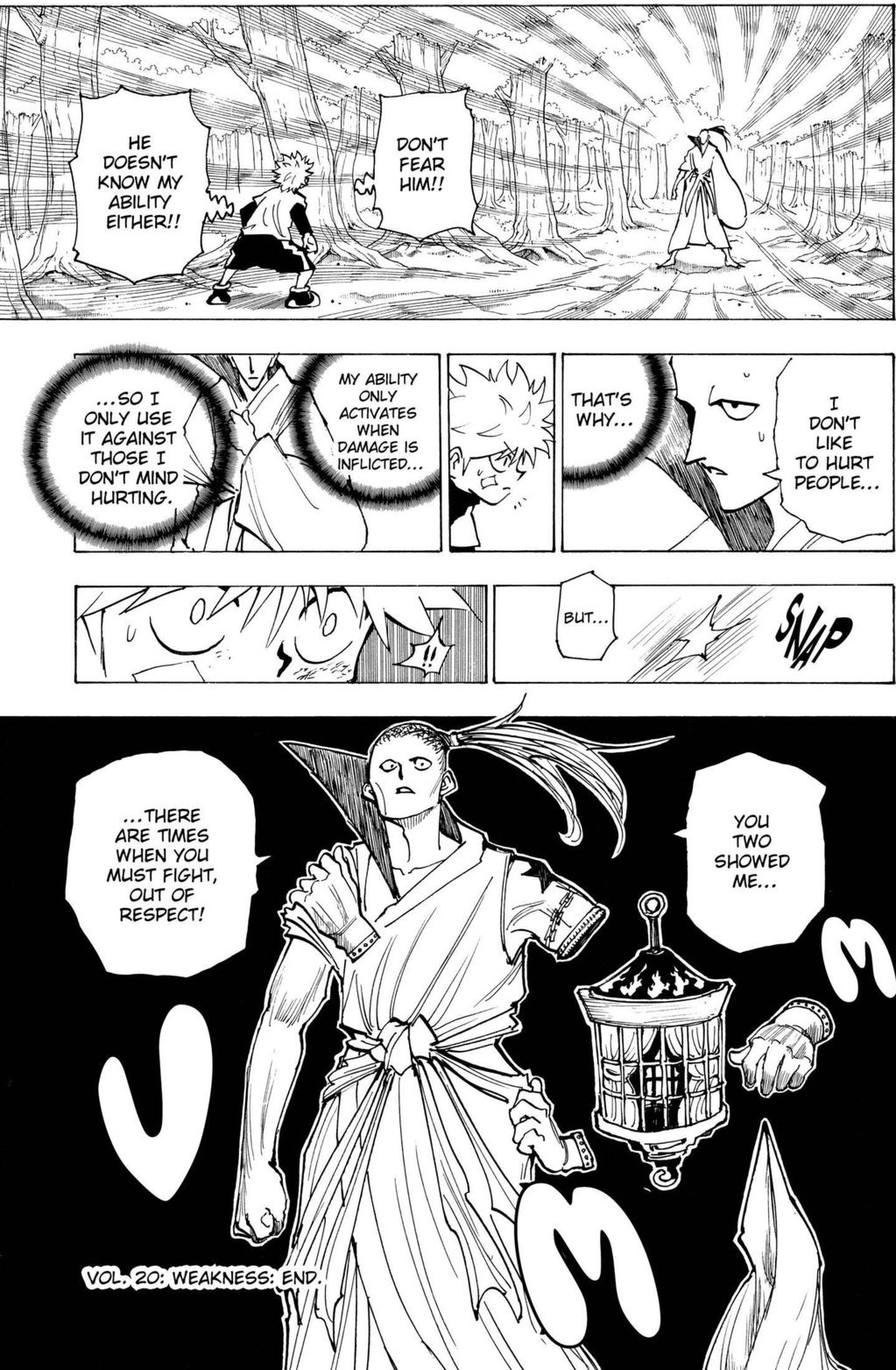
READ THIS WAY


THAT PUNCH...
...WAS ABOUT 150.
YOU PAID BACK 150, BUT I GAVE YOU ANOTHER 180.
A NET INCREASE OF 30. WHAT ARE YA GONNA DO?
UNTIL YOU PAY BACK THE DEBT COMPLETELY...
...I WON'T GET DAMAGED FROM YOUR ATTACKS!
IT'S TIME.
2142
YOU'VE ACCRUED INTEREST.
CLIK
2356
FFT
YEAH, COME AT ME!!
YOU'LL GO BANKRUPT IN FOUR MINUTES ANYWAY!!


SHF
YOU GOT MORE PUNCHES IN. HOWEVER...
THE NET AMOUNT YOU MANAGED TO REPAY WAS ONLY ABOUT 100.
GLANCE...


IT'S TIME.
YOU'VE ACCRUED INTEREST.
2245
CLIK
2470
A DROP IN THE BUCKET!
YOU HAVEN'T EVEN PAID BACK **HALF** THE INTEREST!
I WON'T LET HIM JA JAN KEN ME.
VICTORY WILL BE MINE ONCE HIS DEBT GOES OVER 10,000!!
2717
IT'S TIME.
YOU'VE ACCRUED INTEREST.


TP
SHH
HAAH
ZZT


DON'T FEAR HIM!!
HE DOESN'T KNOW MY ABILITY EITHER!!
I DON'T LIKE TO HURT PEOPLE...
THAT'S WHY...
MY ABILITY ONLY ACTIVATES WHEN DAMAGE IS INFLICTED...
...SO I ONLY USE IT AGAINST THOSE I DON'T MIND HURTING.
BUT...
SNAP
!!
YOU TWO SHOWED ME...
...THERE ARE TIMES WHEN YOU MUST FIGHT, OUT OF RESPECT!
UMM

VOL. 20: WEAKNESS: END.